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TRAPPED BY **GRANTS** 

What greedy museums can learn from the zoo **PAGE 18** 



#### **NIGELLA** LAWSON

on why the two fat ladies aren't bad for your health **PAGE 17** 



## Spending on NHS will be capped

SPENDING on the National Health Service will be strictly capped for the first time under proposals announced yesterday to give GPs overall control of the £35 billion health

budget. GPs will take over responsibility for spending on hospital and primary care but if they overshoot on one item - such as drugs — they will have to cut other services. At the moment, GPs have an openended drugs budget and if they overspend they can call on the Treasury for more money — a practice that successive Tory administrations tried to overturn.

The new regime was announced as Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary unveiled a White Paper designed to create a modern health service that is the envy of the world and to break down the "Berlin

Peter Riddell .Page II

Wall" between health and social care.

To do that, he intended to abolish the NHS internal phase out GP fundholding and set up a 24hour patients' helpline that can be used as an alternative

to the 999 emergency service. He also promised that anyone with suspected cancer would see a specialist within two weeks and that a new institution would set national clinical standards of excellence. The White Paper, The new NHS - Modern, Dependable, also envisages savings of £1 billion through

cutting red tape.

The most radical proposal, however, was for the NHS budget to be transferred to groups of GPs and community nurses, who would be able to buy most hospital and community care for their patients

 including emergency care.
 Groups of practices, representing about 100,000 people and comprising up to 50 GPs, would be given cash-limited "envelopes" to cover hospital and community care, pre-

scriptions and surgeries. Legislation would be introduced to allow these groups to set up as freestanding Primary Care Trusts, which would effectively run the NHS from

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1999. The move will put doctors and nurses into the driving seat but will also mean that they will have to take on

much more adminstration.

Some GPs were baffled as to how 50 doctors would be able to decide how to spend

their budget.
The proposals, described in a foreword by the Prime Minister as making the NHS "a beacon to the world", were attacked by doctors' representatives who feared that GPs would be blamed for cash shortages.
John Chisholm, chairman

of the British Medical Association GPs' Committee, said that there was no mention of new resources. "Devolution might be used as a smokescreen to conceal underfunding. GPs could end up being given the influence they have been seeking but

becoming the fall guys." Ministers argue that the changes will remove competition and stop NHS trusts pitting themselves against each other. Legislation will be introduced to make it a statutory requirement for health authorities to consult with hospital doctors, GPs and socials services before drawing up three-year "rolling agreements". Health authorities will have less influence and are expected to dwindle in

In his Commons statement, Mr Dobson said that patients would get "swift access to care and treatment rather than being passed from pillar to

He added: "We will keep the separation between planning and providing services. But we will end competition and replace it with a new statutory duty of partnership so that local health services pull together rather than pull apart". In the next four years, the changes would "shift an extra El billion from bureaucracy

John Maples, Shadow Health Secretary, said that the Government's policy objectives were the same as the Tories', but he said the White Paper showed a "touching old Labour faith in co-operation and goodwill. He said that the success of the changes would depend on how much power individual GPs had to financial responsibility.

into frontline patient services.





The helium-filled balloon floats over the Moroccan desert as a stunned Richard Branson and his son Sam watch. The balloon broke free from its moorings after strong winds

FROM ANDREW PIERCE IN MARRAKESH

FIGHTER jets were preparing last night to shoot down Richard Branson's runaway balloon after it soared 60,000 ft over the Atlas mountains, zig-zagging in and out of Morocco and Algeria, with a Virgin Lear jet in pursuit.
The military aircraft will be

ready to take off this morning, but the world's biggest balloon was dropping a thousand feet a minute last night, raising hopes that it would find its own way back to earth.

If it does, the Virgin crew intend to swoop before dawn to try to salvage the balloon before the sun can reheat the helium and send it upwards engineers say that the enve-

Jets may have to shoot down Virgin Challenger

of fabric weighing four tons could float uninterrupted for three days, posing a serious risk to other aircraft.

Mr Branson, who had pleaded with the Algerian authorities not to turn their fire on the Virgin Challenger on its ill-fated maiden voyage in January, found himself in a completely different position. He said: "I'm now in the bizarre position of trying to

necessary, to shoot it down." The chase across the North African skies started after the balloon broke free from its launch pad moorings after unexpectedly strong thermic winds, generated by the blaz-ing mid-morning heat, lifted the envelope. The pressure

proved too great, the mooring

ropes snapped, and within an

hour the balloon was doing 50

knots and had dimbed to

said that he was convinced that one of the five crews fighting to achieve the record would be successful this time. The Virgin crew were hoping last night that they would be able to retrieve the balloon, patch up any damage and relaunch later this month for yet another assault on the elusive record. But the time it could take to repair the envelope and prepare for take-off again could give rivals the

25,000 ft. Mr Branson's dream

of being the first person to

circumnavigate the globe in a

Yesterday the Virgin team dispatched a Lear jet to track the balloon's progress as it raced over the snow-peaked Continued on page 3, col 3

# balloon appeared to be over. Only on Monday, he had

#### Irvine makes Blair friend his adviser

By Richard Ford and James Landale

LORD IRVINE of Lairg yes-terday became the first Lord Chancellor to have a special policy adviser when he appointed a close friend of the Prime Minister. Garry Hart, one of the country's leading planning solicitors, is to join the Lord Chancellor's Depart-

ment in March. Mr Hart, aged 57, currently senior planning partner at Herbert Smith, a leading firm of Landon solicitors, will make a substantial financial sacrifice to join his old friend Lord Irvine. His salary will be £73,484 compared with an

estimated £350,000 at present. A spokesman at the Lord Chancellor's department said that the post was five days a week and was for an indefinite term. "Mr Hart will assist and advise the Lord Chancelior in the development and effective presentation of policy.

"In providing a channel of

communication in the areas of policy analysis and advice and the presentation of policies and achievements, Mr Hart will have a role in support of the government interests with a degree of party political association which would not be appropriate for civil servants".

The announcement comes after the Lord Chancellor has faced criticism over a £650,000 refurbishment of his official residence using wallpaper that cost almost £60,000 and ridicule after he jokingly com-pared himself as Cardinal

Wolsey. There have been bruising encounters with other Ministers and unhappiness at his brusque manner in the depart-

ment and Parliament. It was made clear that Mr Hart, a close friend of the Blairs, who is believed to be Continued on page 2, coi 4



Cambridge win

Cambridge recorded their fourth consecutive victory in the 116th University Match. beating Oxford 29-17. New Zealand's Paul Surridge scored 14 of Cambridge's points with a try, penalty and three conversions ..... Page 48

Toyota blow

Toyota will build a new £400 million plant in the northern French city of Valenciennes. The decision destroyed hopes for an extension of the plant in Burnaston, Derbyshire Page 7

#### Britannia may end her days on a canal

By Shirley English and Alan Hamilton

THE Royal Yacht Britannia may sail into a less dignified retirement than the Queen would wish, with a permanent berth on the Manchester Ship Canal or at Leith Docks near

Edinburgh. George Robertson, the Deience Secretary, is expected to amnounce in the Commons today that eight serious bids for the 44-year-old vessel have been reduced to two. In either case, Britain's elegant floating ambassador will become a

tourist attraction. Ministers have ruled out proposals from groups bidding to have Britannia moored in the Pool of London, by the Millennium Dome at Greenwich, Canary Wharf on the Thames, Hartlepool, in her home port of Portsmouth, or on the Clyde where she has built. The Government has

decided not to scrap the vessel,

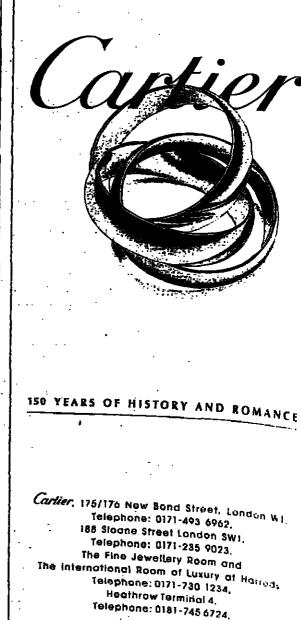
despite a remark by the Prin-

cess Royal while on board last week that she — and by implication the Queen — would prefer to see it scuttled.

The bid by the Manchester Ship Canal Company would transform the yacht into a floating stately home and the centrepiece of a £40 million heritage park at Barton, near a £600 million shopping and entertainment complex at

Dumplington.
If the bid by Forth Ports succeeds, Britannia will find a home in a planned £50 million development of Edinburgh's docklands that will include a luxury ocean liner terminal. leisure facilities and shopping: The vessel itself would become a visitor attraction with conference and banqueting facilities.

The Queen will attend the final decommissioning ceremony of Britannia in Portsmouth tomorrow.





## Fearsome reputation ends up in the bargain basement

THERE is an old Punch joke about a sign at a zoo: "WARN-ING: if attacked, this animal defends itself. Over in that noble zoo they call the House of Lords, this should hang from the bars of Lord Williams of Mostyn's cage - as Lord Tebbit found to his cost yesterday.

Admire or detest him (this sketch admires), Norman Tebbit is one of the wriest and most mordant men in British politics. And there is something wonderfully destructive

lessons in game-shooting that there be an unexpected the instructor would shout vacancy. "Fire!" but the young Norman kept missing the bird. But when they tried shouting "Kill!". Tebbit bagged the bird

Yesterday in the Lords, he had Lord Williams in his sights.

first time.

A small, mild-mannered peer, Williams of Mostyn is nevertheless a shrewd and senior Labour spokesman: so senior that one Fleet Street gossip column mentioned his name in connection with the It is said of Tebbit's first. Lord Chancellor's job, should

But Lord Irvine of Lairs shows no signs of going, so Lord Tebbit began his question to Lord Williams yester-day with sarcastic felicitations to Williams (whose "charm" he praised) on the rumoured good news, which he said he hoped was true. Mostyn remained impassive.

Then Tebbit went onto the attack. He had asked the Government about the "scope" of "the work of the Ministerial Group on the Family". "In these days, when



the Government is going to have no more secrets," he sneered, "why, despite a number of written questions, are they unable to explain their definition of the family?"

he has been a persistent critic of progressive notions in a sexually permissive age. He had come to the House of Lords to torment the La- what does not accord with

Lord Williams began with a straight bat. The Government, he said, did not "seek to prescribe how people live their Tebbit's purpose was clear:

He was critical of those he had heard aptly described in a quote he had read: people who cannot imagine that

could be popular or morally

defensible".

Lord Williams paused. That quote, he said, came from a book by Lord Tebbit. He had bought it in a second-hand bookshop in Moreton-in-Marsh. The book was priced by its publishers at £13.99 -UK only - that's to stop those nasty foreign people reading it. Their lordships began to

But Lord Williams had not finished. The book had been repriced, he revealed, "at £3.50°. Then it had been

their own ephemeral prejudice reduced to £2. The final reduction was to £1. "I bought it for

50 pence."
The biter bit, Lord Tebbit did not come back for a second bite. We moved to the next question, from Lord Carver. This former Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal and distinguished military historian, attacked Labour's nuclear defence policy from the Left. All the old familiar landmarks of British politics

seem to be shifting. But wait! As I write, Tony Blair is announcing that he will make our NHS "a beacon to the world". Such modesty! We all know that it is Mr Blair himself who is the beacon. Now he is to share beaconhood with the NHS.

Only last October, he promised to make the whole country a beacon to the world. Already we are a beacon to Europe. Is the latest a regular beacon, a New beacon or a People's beacon? How many beacons can we take?

This is getting confusing. Next time Mr Blair feels a beacon coming on, could we suggest a couple of aspirins and a darkened room?

## Blair heads for showdown over euro committee

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

TONY BLAIR was heading for his first serious confrontation in Europe last night after insisting that Britain must have a seat on a powerful new committee that will run the

single currency.
The Prime Minister maintains that Britain should attend the Euro-X committee as a matter of course and be a participant, not an observer. Only in exceptional circumstances would it not attend.

In what was turning into a head-on clash with the French Government, which is leading the opposition to Britain's membership of the committee. Mr Blair was ringing round his fellow EU leaders warning that he would not allow Britain to be frozen out of key economic decisions. He was preparing to make a direct appeal to Chancellor Kohl of Germany to back Britain on an issue over which Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was rebuffed last week.

During a one-hour meeting at Downing Street with Jean-Claude Juncker, the Luxembourg Prime Minister, Mr accepted that there would be rare occasions when the countries outside the single currency would not be able to attend the committee, notably when the "ins" were discussing the exchange rate policy of an "out" currency which was due to join.

This was being seen as a concession by Mr Blair that might eventually contribute to a solution at the summit that begins in Luxembourg on Friday. In fact, he was giving away little because the Maastricht treaty already precludes the "out" countries from participating in exchange rate policy decisions by the "ins".

Mr Blair is clearly ready to take on the French. He and Mr Brown were furious last week over the attitude of

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister who suggested that the euro would be a private "marriage" in which outsiders would not be welcome.

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, kept up the firm line yesterday, saying that if Britain was not a member of the "ins" club it should not expect a seat at the table. "The rules have yet to be defined. But the UK, which invented clubs, should not complain at being excluded."

Mr Blair insisted yesterday that Ecolin - the council of finance ministers - must remain the main decision making body on economic and financial matters. The Euro-X group would discuss many matters, such as employment policy, structural reform and labour market flexibility, in all of which Britain and the other "out" countries would want a

Mr Blair's offical spokesman said: "We want the expectation to be that we should be in all these discussions not as observers but as participants. We want that to be the rule not the exception. Others want it the other way

Unless Mr Blair has al-



Juncker: hour of talks in Downing Street

ready won a private assurance of support from Herr Kohl, which is unlikely, it appeared last night that he was facing a bruising summit. Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister and an influential figure at the summit, staked out his resistance to British participation in the planned Euro-X council. "If Britain doesn't want to have full participation in the euro from the beginning, then they should respect other's rights to have their own

internal consultations." Diplomats in Brussels are convinced that the usual summit chemistry will prevail, allowing the euro council to go ahead with formal EU blessing, while giving some role to Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Greece, the likely non-participants in the single currency. Goran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister, said in Paris he thought a compromise deal was possible.

Pierre Moscovici, the abrasive French European Affairs Minister, said: "We want to do all we can to find an agreement, but there are limits ... there should be no confusion between the euro council and the Ecofin."

Diplomats believe that it is unlikely that Mr Blair will want to pursue the Euro-X battle to the point of a crisis in his relations with the EU, just as the Government is taking over the presidency and working hard to establish Euro credentials for Britain after years of hostile cross-Channel relations under the Conservatives. Some Commission officials, annoyed by Mr Blair's claims to be leading Europe, see the quarrel as an example of the "naivety" of the new Government. They think all they have to do is smile and say nice things and they will be welcomed with open arms," a German EU official said.



Lord Irvine and Garry Hart, the special adviser who will join him next year

## Soccer fan who scored with the Blair team

By James Landale and Richard Ford

London's leading law firms, Garry Hart is an unusual choice of special adviser to the Lord Chancellor. While most ministerial ad-

visers are young, ambitious apparatchiks who have known little else other than working for the Labour Party, Mr Hart, 57, has no direct experience of the political frontline. But as a prominent Labour-

supporting lawyer who lives in Islington, North London, and is a family friend of Tony Blair, he is ideally suited. Like many in the Labour Government, he is also obsessed with soccer and an ardent fan of Ipswich FC. Mr Hart is from the town and was educated at its grammar school.

He is a senior partner with Herbert Smith, a position he will give up when he takes up his new post in March. He has known Lord Irvine of Lairg, both socially and professionally, for years. As one of the major London solicitors firms, Herbert Smith, has briefed 11 Kings Bench Walk,

AS A senior partner in one of the chambers headed by Lord Irvine until he entered government last May. Although he has kept his

political views largely private, Mr Hart has for some time been a member of the "1,000 Club" of Labour supporters who donate at least £1,000-ayear to the party, according to a source at Herbert Smith. Mr Hart also has close links with other members of new Labour's "Islington ma-

#### MAN IN **THE NEWS**

fia". His neighbour in one of the borough's smartest streets is Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC, the Solicitor-

Mr Hart joined Herbert Smith as an articled clerk after graduating in law from University College in London. He has been a partner with the firm since 1971 and head of the property and planning department from 1988 until

earlier this year. His first marriage, from which he has three children,

ended in divorce in 1986 after 20 years. In the same year he married Valerie Davies, by whom he has twin daughters. His second wife is also a solicitor and is head of the insolvency litigation department with Norton Rose, another major London law firm. They have a hill farm in Wales where they keep sheep

from London. He is a freeman of the City of London, trustee of the Architecture Foundation and is currently chairman of the Trustees of the Almeida Theatre in Islington. He is also a member of the Law Society specialist planning panel and a governor of the Anglo-American Real Property Institute. A member of the Reform Club, he lists farming and travel as his recreations.

and spend weekends away

A source at Herbert Smith said: "Garry is a very young 57. He is a larger than life character, a great raconteur who is often asked to give after dinner speeches. He is very convivial but very switched on with a lot of

#### Robinson accused of neglecting his duties

By NICHOLAS WATT POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GEOFFREY ROBINSON. the multimillionaire Paymaster General, was accused last night of neglecting his minis-terial duties because of his obsession" with clearing his

Conservatives rounded on Mr Robinson after he put in a 20-minute appearance before the Commons standing committee considering the Government's Bank of England Bill.

The Paymaster General sat in silence at the meeting, even though the Treasury had earlier indicated that be would take an active role throughout the day. Instead Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, spoke for the Gov-

After the meeting David Heathcoat-Amory, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury who appeared for the Opposition, accused Mr Robinson of specific and the Composition of the Compo Robinson of avoiding awkward questions about his offshore financial interests. On Monday Mr Robinson threatened to sue The Sunday Times and The Observer for making "ill-informed and defamatory statements' about his financial affairs.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory said: 'lt seems to me that Mr Robinson is not discharging his functions as a Treasury minister. He is obsessed by his struggle to fend off fun-ther questions. It is very odd.

A Treasury spokesman said last night that Mr Robinson had appeared at the committee to support Ms Liddell. The spokesman said: "Helen Liddell had the detailed knowledge of the clauses under consideration. Geoffrey Robinson was there to support her. Often ministers deal with different sections of Bills at standing committees." Earlier the Treasury had said that Mr Robinson would spend the whole day at the committee

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### MP wants loans for libel suits

A Bill to turn the self-regulat-ing Press Complaints Com-mission into a statutory body was given an unopposed first reading in the Commons, although it has no chance of becoming law. It was introduced by Anthony Steen. Tory MP for Totnes, who said that individuals should receive interest-free loans to pursue libel cases where the PCC thought there was a case, and that the ultimate deterrent for Editors who print reckless and malicious" articles should be a one-day ban of their papers from sale.

#### Oxford places

Oxford University took fewer state school pupils than expected this year - 41.6 per cent of places compared with 43.6 per cent last year. Independent school students got 49.1 per cent of places, up on 47.5 per cent. Other places went to overseas students.

#### Benefit boost

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, urged 16 and 17-year-olds who are in dead-end jobs or unemployed to return to study, noting that this would allow their families to receive up to £40 extra a week in benefits.

#### Cancer test hope

Researchers yesterday launched a major screening test for a bacterial infection common in 55 per cent of all stomach cancers. More than 6,000 stomach cancers diag-nosed in Britain each year are

#### Time for tea

Weekly tea auctions which have been held in London for the past 163 years are to be wound up next year due to the computerisation and globalisation of the industry. The auctions will be held fort-nightly from February and will finally end in June.

## la rebel

#### Granada

GRANADA GROUPPLC

FOR THE SECOND YEAR, GRANADA · AND ITS

EMPLOYEES ARE DONATING THE MONEY WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN SPENT ON BUSINESS CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THEIR CHOSEN CHARITIES

> GRANADA WISHES ALL ITS CUSTOMERS, VIEWERS & SUPPLIERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR \*\*\*

#### Irvine adviser

Continued from page 1 godfather to one of their children, would not be a political adviser. However, his skills in human relations and in handling people are expected to help smooth feathers ruffled by Lord Irvine, both among ministerial colleagues

and officials. John Underwood, a solicitor who has known Mr Hart for some years, said last night: "He is a very very imaginative lawyer with a good creative grasp and strategic vision. He is excellent in terms of human relations."

Mr Underwood said that Mr Hart had a "very civilised" view of the world, was a fanatical supporter of Ipswich Town football club and had once described himself as a working class libertine".

claimed that the decision to decision was a clear signalthat Downing Street wanted to put a halt to a string of damaging press reports.

One senior Tory peer said: "I supposed the Lord Chancellor needs someone like this to look after him. He is incapable of doing it by himself unlike his predecessor (Lord Mackay of Clashfern) who would not even have known what a special adviser was."

In recent weeks the Lord Chancellor has also shown his vulnerability in Government. He has admitted making a mistake on a point of law about whether the proposed incorporation of the European Bill of Human Rights would introduce a privacy law by the back door into Britain.

## Life for Hindley justified by crime

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

THE horror of the Moors murders justified the Home Secretary's decision that Myra Hindley should die in prison, the High Court was lold yesterday.

Hindley's confession ten rears ago to two further killings justified the increase of the minimum term she must serve from 30 years to a whole life", the court heard. David Pannick. QC, for the Home Secretary, said that in her confession Hindley admitted two "pitiless" killings that were "the culmination of a series of five murders in which she had

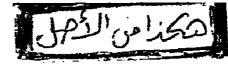
been involved. Hindley, 55, was not in court to hear Mr Pannick oppose her challenge to a eries of decisions to impose

terrence". She is in Durham jail and has served 31 years of a sentence imposed at Chester Crown court in 1966 for the murders of Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and Edward

Evans, aged 17. The thirty-year tariff was imposed by Leon Brittan in 1985, two years before Hindley's confession, and it was increased to a whole life in 1990 by David Wadding ton. Edward Fitzgerald, QC, for Hindley, had said that it was unlawful for Mr Waddington to increase the tariff. Mr Pannick said that par-liament had deliberately

conferred a broad discretion on the Home Secretary. The hearing continues.





## Andrew Pierce watches end of Virgin chief's latest attempt to capture his round-the-world dream

## Branson sees balloon record hope drift away

sitting in his hotel room in point." Marrakesh signing his will when the news came through that his renewed attempt to balloon around the world had been ended by a freak gust of wind which snapped the guy ropes and sent the helium-filled envelope drifting off without him.

A quick look out of the window confirmed the shattering news to the millionaire adventurer as he saw the silver-and-white balloon disappearing toward the Atlas Mountains.

Disaster struck while Mr Branson was making final preparations in his hotel suite, half a mile from the Moroccan launch site, only five hours before the scheduled lift-off.

Unexpectedly warm ther-mal currents of 14 knots lifted the one million cubic metre balloon when it was partially filled with four tonnes of helium. The effect was catastrophic. It lurched to the right and put intolerable strain on the 16 mooring ropes. One snapped. It sounded like a

As panic set, in project director Mike Kendrick shouted: "For God's sake. We are

As the 50 Virgin Challenger engineers desperately tried to stabilise the world's biggest balloon envelope, two more ropes snapped as the thermic wind lifted the envelope to the right. Two more ropes broke under the strain. It had a domino effect. One by one the 16 Kevlar fibre ropes parted. under the pressure.

As the engineers raced for cover the majestic balloon, the product of ten years planning and design rocketed skywards like a cork out of a champagne bottle. It soared high over the Atlas Mountains while below on the ground the devastated members of the Virgin Challenger team broke down in tears. The 223 ft balloon, one and a half times the size of Nelson's Column, disap-peared from view in 90 min-

Within an hour the wayward balloon had soared 25,000 ft into the air on a course for Algeria, which was the first country Mr Branson and his crew were to have crossed. Mr Kendrick telephoned Mr Branson, 47, who was preparing to leave his hotel to try to beat the world's

four 747 airplanes on Moroecan radar screens. The launch had been scheduled to take place at 4pm but the unscheduled take off happened at llam in blazing sunshine as crowds of Moroccans gathered to witness the spectacular launch.

Per Lindstrand, 47, the pilot who designed and built the multi-million pound craft, was working in the one tonne capsule at the time. "I saw what I thought was a toy silver balloon drifting past the window. It looked horribly familiar. My stomach churned. I realised it was ours. We had taken a big gamble by inflating in the day. It was a gamble

last great aviation challenge.

balloon has gone."

not a joke.

disastrous."

He said: "Richard, the project is off for a bit. The

Mr Branson, who was with

his wife, Joan, his son Sam, 12,

and daughter Holly, 16, thought it was a joke. He said:

"I thought Mike was pulling my leg. I looked out of the hotel window and saw it was

"I saw the balloon drifting

away. I suspected straight away this was the end. The

ballon had decided to make a

"it is an horrendous disap

pointment. The conditions had been perfect. But the balloon

doesn't like being on the

ground. One of the most

dangerous times is during the inflation. We have to look on

the bright side. Maybe fate has been kind to us. If we had

taken off it could have been

Moroccan air force jets

based at the launch site by the

imperial city of Marrakesh

were put on alert. Air traffic

controllers were warned that

the balloon was floating out of

control. The giant envelope

represented the equivalent of

run for it without us.

They had hoped to inflate the balloon last night for a take-off at dawn today but the weathermen warned them that the jet streams, which ere required to power the balloon were in danger of dying away. They decided to inflate yesterday morning. It was a fatal miscalculation. The thermic winds, which had expected to be no more than 5 knots an hour, reached 14 by

The Virgin Global Challenger balloon being inflated with helium shortly before it escaped when a gust of wind snapped the guy ropes

of the balloon breaking free they had died away. Mr Branson had been in favour of a night time inflation, but was overruled by the weathermen.

The Virgin chief arrived at the air force base hand in hand with his children and was initially too choked to speak. As he addressed the Virgin Challenger team he became emotional and was forced to break off his short speech. But he was clapped and cheered when he declared: "We have to be posi-

tive. We can try again." They were hoping yesterday that they could retreieve the £250,000 envelope, carry out repair work and try again next week or in January. But the calculations will depend on whether any of the competitors successfully complete the 20,000 mile voyage, across 70 countries in 18 days.

Mr Branson said he was sure that the record would go this year. "Sadly, it looks like it won't be me who breaks the record. It's bitter: But we are, alive to fight another day. We will start building another envelope straight away. We will go again if the other teams are not successful. We are sorry for everybody who has been involved in this project. mid morning. Within minutes But at least I will be home for

Christmas." Last January the Virgin Challenger had been flying for 19 hours when it ran into serious difficulties at night in Algeria when the helium, which was required to keep the balloon buoyant at night, cooled dramatically. The balloon crash-landed in the Algerian desert after only 23 hours having travelled only

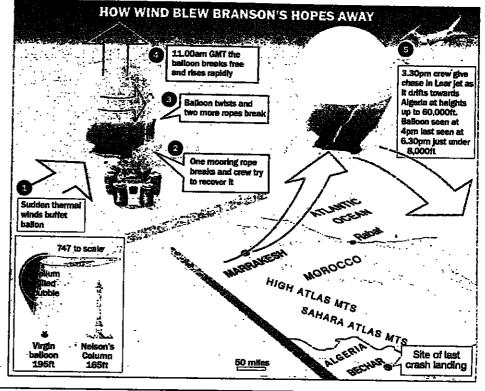
400 miles.

☐ Four other teams are now vying for the chance to become the first to float around the world, with two of them hoping to take off within a

Mr Branson's old friend and rival Bertrand Piccard, a Swiss balloonist, is hoping to launch his second round the world bid next week, but it could be as long as late February depending on the wind conditions.

Three other balloonists are also hoping to claim the title. They are Kevin Ullassi, Steve Fossett and Dick Rutan.

Leading article, page 19



## Star's son born with a rebel yell

Lindstrand: "We took a big gamble and we lost"

By JOANNA BALE

MICK JAGGERS newborn son will almost cername, Beauregard, will always be a reminder of his mother's Southern roots.

The 8lb 3oz boy, named Gabriel Luke Beauregard Jagger, was born in London early yesterday. Although his first name has obvious seasonal connotátions, his Texan-born mother, Jerry Hall, is said to have been keen for him to have a Southern name. Beauregard is popular in America's South because of the confederate general Pierre Beauregard, who designed the famous "rebel flag", the strongest symbol of the Southern cause in the American Civil War. He is also famous for being the man who fired the first shots in the centiles by ordering the bombardment

of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbour in 1861.

Jagger, 54, who is on tour with the Rolling Stones in Atlanta, was not present at the birth. His spokesman, Fran Curtis, said that mother and baby were well and that Jagger "was clearly very excited" Jagger is expected home on Satur-

He and Ms Hall, a model. have three other children: Elizabeth, 13, James, 11, and Georgia May, 5. Jagger also has two daughters, Karis and Jade, from previous relationships. He is grandfather to Jade's two children Assisi, 4 and Amber, 2. Jagger and Ms Hall, 41. married in 1990 after living together since the 1970s. Earlier this year she reportedly consulted the divorce lawyer Anthony Ju-lius after Jagger was linked to a model and an actress.

#### **Balloon chase**

Continued from page 1

mountains towards Algeria, covering 120 miles in five hours. A convoy of Bedouin Arabs were also reported to be following the silver balloon, which took on the appearance of a huge pink jellyfish against the light of the sinking sun. A Virgin official said: "With one million cubic metres of fabric, it would create a lot of tents. It could build a whole Bedouin

A Moroccan military helicopter also joined in the chase but had to abandon the flight because it could only reach 14,000 ft as the balloon hovered imperiously above 40.000 ft.

Mr Branson remained on the ground, however, saying that to have joine the pursuit would have involved the longest and loneliest flight of my life". Despite his disappointment, the millionaire adventurer remained determinedly optimistic. We will do it again," he insisted.
"Only the next time I plan to

be in the balloon." As the sky turned a deep red at sunset, the balloon began its precipitous fall. The Lear jets

passed within 400 ft and continued to follow it until it had fallen below 7,500 ft above the tiny Moroccan village of Tmaho in rugged and unforgiving mountainous terrain.

At the same time, Virgin engineers were making their way to the nearest large town, Quarzazate, to prepare for an early morning salvage expedi-tion. Will Whitehorn, a corporate affairs director, said: "It's vital we get to it before the sun rises and it goes up again. I'm confident we can do it without having to resort to shooting it

Tmaho is only 50 miles from the spot where the Virgin copilot Alex Ritchie dumped a propane gas cylinder overboard after clambering on to the roof of the capsule shortly before it crash landed 23 hours into their flight last January. Mr Branson and his team then had to fly into Algeria to retrieve the Virgin balloon and

This time the balloon, which cost £250,000 to make, is insured for £100,000, but it was unclear last night whether the policy would pay out for damage inflicted by gunfire.

fossil, not as a piece of jewellery. It's a piece you

couldn't put a monetary price on. You can see air bubbles

near the wings which indi-cates that it was caught in the

amber when it was alive. If someone was faking it, they

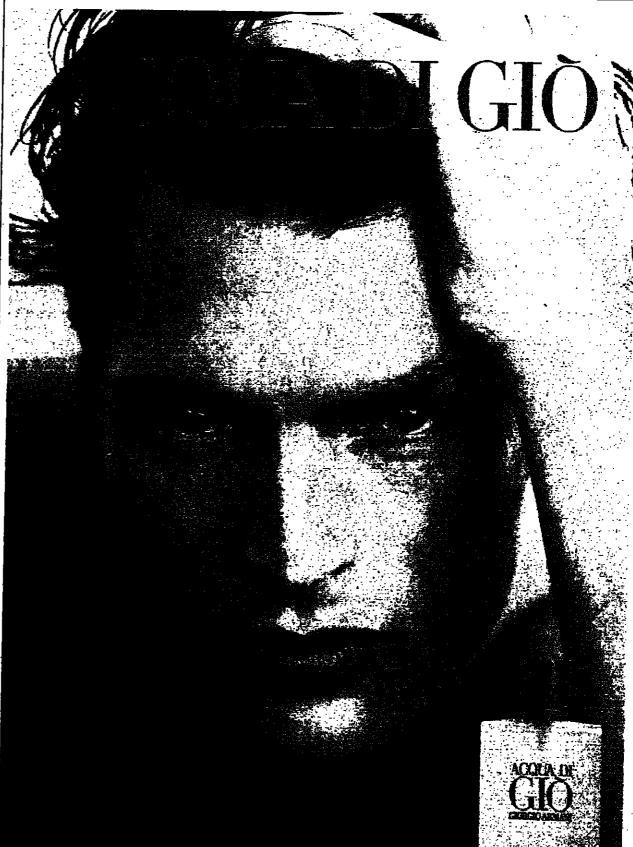
would use a dead fly. In the

scientific world it would be priceless. Let's just say it was

£12 very well spent."

Andrew Ross, of the

palaeontology department at the Natural History Museum.



## Scientists enticed by rare jewel

A WOMAN who enjoys shop-ping for the unusual may have made a fortune after discovering a prehistoric fly trapped inside a £12 amber ring she bought at a fair. Biologists believe the insect is one of only eight members of its species recorded in amber worldwide.

Catherine White, 39, a divorced mother-of-two who is taking a six-year Open Univa ersity science degree course, plans to sell the silver ring to heip to finance her studies. She bought it while trinkethunting at a natural medicine fair, and wore it for six weeks before taking it to experts at

the University of Leeds After tearning that it may be 40 million years old. Ms White from Comingley. West

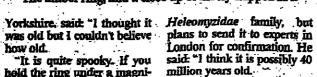


The amber ring, and a close-up of the fly trapped in it

was old but I couldn't believe

"It is quite spooky. If you hold the ring under a magnifying glass and shine a light on it, the fly's eye glows. You can even see its tiny beard and

David Blakeley, a biologist at the university, is convinced that the fly is a member of the



"In the 15 years I've been carrying out research, I've never seen an insect caught in amber. It's certainly the most exciting thing I ve ever had. This is a very rare fossil

within a piece of jewellery.

believes the amber may have come from a mine in Kalingrad. Most of the insect amber has Russian origins. He added that there were only

seven examples of this particular fly species in Baltic amber recorded world wide. "If it is a Heleomyzid fly, then it will be very rare," he said.



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# Couple find runaway son living rough in London

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE bearded figure in Leicester Square looked like another down-and-out to Catherine Davies, after a 31day search for her missing son. But as she took a closer look there was something familiar about his football scarf and his eyes.

Then the tired faced looked back at her and said: "Mum." She reached out and hugged the 17-year-old, who had run away from home because of fears about his mock A levels. Yesterday, Alex Davies was back home with his family in Clevedon, Somerset, sleeping off his ordeal.

He vanished last month. taking a small bag and E100 from his bank account on the eve of a school parents' evering. He left behind a scrib-bled note saying: "I've let you down. Please forgive me." For two weeks, Mrs Davies, 46, an insurance manager, and her husband Gordon, 50, a marketing consultant, feared he might be dead, but then he made a withdrawal at a cashpoint machine in London.

In desperation, they made appeals on television and radio, placed advertisements in The Big Issue and travelled to London to search for him. They arranged for appeals to be broadcast at the White Hart Lane ground of Totten-ham Hotspur, his favourite team. School friends distributed leaflets. On Sunday morning, his parents were on their

ariw-tittar

fifth visit to the capital. Mrs Davies said: "After an hour, I saw someone in front of us. It didn't look much like Alex or walk like him, but I decided to run after him just in case.

When I caught up with him, I looked at this bearded face and it wasn't Alex's, but then I saw the Tottenham scarf and I recognised his eyes. He just said 'Mum'. We collapsed into each other's

Alex had spent the month sleeping rough near Trafalgar Square, trying to keep out of trouble and spending his dwindling money on food. He said: "It was a massive relief when they found me. "
He had been worried about

his biology and geography mock A levels, which he was due to take after Christmas. "After walking out like that, I found it impossible to call home, but I knew my parents would check my bank withdrawals. I wanted them to find me. If I had seen one of their messages, I think I would have felt they were reaching out to me and I would have

Mrs Davies, who has two other sons, Tim. 19. and Rowan, 13, said: "We will all enjoy a family Christmas and then Alex can take stock of what to do next. What I can't forget is that we left behind hundreds of others just like him, still living rough on the



Reunited: Alex Davies with his parents yesterday



Anne Atkins hugs her 12-year-old daughter Lara, known as Bink, who was found by a family friend after wandering the streets for 36 hours

## Agony aunt's ecstasy at child's return

Girl who went in search of adventure found only cold and fear, reports Emma Wilkins

THE agony aunt whose 12-year-old daughter went missing from bome for 36 hours spoke yesterday of her joy and relief after her child was found safe and well.

Anne Atkins and her husband Shaun, a Church of England vicar, hugged their daughter Lara and said they would not be rebuking her over her "adventure" which prompted a search costing more than £10,000.

Lara - known by her family nickname Bink — who is an avid reader of adventure stories, slept by a family friend after dark on Monday, instead of having a "madcap" storybook adventure, Lara was left cold, damp and frightened by her

Police who mobilised a helicopter, dog units and called up scores of reserve forces for the hunt, were anxious to dissuade other children from copying Lara. Although she was unharmed, the outcome could have

been far more serious, officers said. Mrs Atkins, who has written a weekly advice column in The Daily

great she's safe and well. She was enormously relieved to be found. It was scary for her," said Mrs Atkins, hugging her daughter in the sitting room of the family home in Fulham, southwest London

"There are better ways to have an adventure and we will be talking to her about it. We're just so pleased to have her home that we couldn't think of rebuking her. "We have a lot of talking and hugging to do - that's more important.

Mrs Atkins, who caused controver-

daughter had slept somewhere near a tree. "It's a secret where she stayed on Sunday night. We know where it was. She told us that somewhere out there is a tree with 'Bink was here' on it."

Lara apologised for the trouble she had caused and thanked police and press for helping to find her. She read out a note saying: "I'm very sorry that I caused everybody so much worry and expense. I didn't realise there would be so much hassle about it or that everyone would be so worried."

#### **Parents** win right to exclude boy from their home

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A COUPLE have resorted to legal action to ban their bullying son from the family home. Robert and Margaret Foraker felt so intimidated by their 19-year-old son. Robcrt, that they were granted a restraining order to keep him away from their cottage in Tuddenham St Mary.

Suffolk. Their application for the order followed weeks of bullying by their 6ft son, who on Monday was convicted of eight counts of harassment against his parents and was remanded in custody by magistrates in Mildenhall.

There is no question that they have felt intimidated and threatened by their son."
John Fenn, for the prosecution, told the court. He said that Foraker was arrested at home on November 12 after a violent outburst in which he had broken a lavatory and

shattered a window. The family had moved to the village about four years ago when Mr Foraker, an American, started work as an administrative officer at the United States Air Force base at Mildenhall

George Peacock, for the defence, said that Foraker would respect the restraining order because he realised that he could not co-exist in the same house as his parents. He said: "This is really a story about a young man who is frustrated with life and begins arguing at home.
Quite clearly it has gone
beyond the bounds of a

normal argument' Foraker, who admitted harassment, was remanded in custody until December 22 after magistrates were told that he had breached previous court orders, including a conditional discharge con-nected with an assault on his

father.
Yesterday Mr Foraker said he had not wanted to see his son jailed but had been left with little option. "We do not want sympathy. We want medical help for our son. What he has done is wrong.

Sainsbury's children's selection. Only Dopey, Sleepy or Sneezy would miss it.



**SIEMENS** 

Oh...pink fluffy slippers! How novel And with a little piggy motif too. Super.

## Warning of riots unless police improve attitude to Asians

By RICHARD FORD HOME CURRESPONDENT

POLICE are risking a return of race riots because mistakes made with the black community are being repeated with a new generation of young Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, a Home Office report said yesterday.

Suspicion and hostility between police and the Afro-Caribbean groups is said to be spreading to ethnic minorities from the Asian

to stop this becoming entrenched. The report said that the danger of a repeat of disturbances that broke out in major cities in 1981 was already apparent, and that initiarives would be needed to prevent

relations worsening.

The same problems that have become so deeply entrenched in police relations with black people are beginning to set in also with young Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in particular," said the Home Office study on ethnic monitoring in police forces in England and Wales. The report found that within the police, collective views of Asians had changed, and that the community was no longer seen as a relatively

'unproblematical" group. The report gives a list of problems: "The Rushdie affair and other local political developments, particular problems investigating intracommunity crime, the events in Bradford 1995 [street disturhances], the growth of vigilantism, the accumulating experience of aggressive behaviour and hostility toward the police among younger Asians and perceptions of their increasing involvement in crime, pointed to the development of new, and more negative views of

In one of four areas, officers were becoming more aware of groups of voung Asians "hanging around". apparently "up to no good". In stop-and-search figures, the Metropolitan Police gave a ratio of 2.5 by officers' experiences and percepethnic minority stops for each tions of black hostility towards ethnic minority stops for each white person stopped. When looked at more closely, the figure was 4.4 stops for blacks and 1.2 of "mutual suspicion, aggression stops for Asians. In Leicestershire, and hostility which it will be figures suggesting parity in stopand-searches between blacks and whites masked a search rate for black people that was more than

five times the rate for whites. The report also found that collective memories among the police of the inner-city riots were reinforced

police. One chief inspector told the researchers that a spiral had set in

difficult to break". Although the study said it would be unwarranted to accuse all police officers of having general views of ethnic-minority groups, it found hostility to the whole concept of ethnic monitoring within the service. Some police considered it irrelevant, and others were resentful or feared it was a "stick" signed to beat them with.

Although research had shown that black people were over-represented in criminal justice figures relative to their presence in the population, the report said that did not prove large-scale police discrimination. However, it said that the figures could be used to reinforce an assumption about black criminality that appeared to be widespread among officers.

## **Butchers** call on Cunningham to cancel beef ban

Black market in T-bone steaks and oxtail is bound to flourish under the counter, reports Michael Hornsby

BUTCHERS yesterday launched a nationwide appeal to their customers to sign a petition urging the Government to abandon its proposed ban on beef on the bone. They want at least for it to be postponed until after Christ-

At the same time, local authority officials predicted a flourishing black market in bone-in beef; they believe it will be virtually impossible to stop the most sought-after cuts

being sold under the counter. The ban, announced by Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, on December 3, is due to come into force next Tuesday. Unless amended, it will outlaw such cuts as rib of beef. T-bone steak and oxtail. Anyone caught selling such items will be guilty of an

been censured over three

"distressing" advertisements

in which it suggested that

eating red meat had a direct

link to cancer (Carol Midgley

The Advertising Standards

Authority upheld complaints

from the Meat and Livestock

Commission, the Danish Ba-

con and Meat Council and

the National Farmers' Union

offence punishable in a magistrates court by a fine of up to E5.000 and/or up to six months in jail; or up to two vears' jail and/or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

Since Dr Cunningham's an-

nouncement, customers keen to fill their freezers before the ban takes effect have cleared butchers' shops of ribs of beef, always popular in the run-up to Christmas, and oxtails.
Although beef on the bone accounts for no more than 5 per cent of total beef sales, independent butchers say that being able to supply such specialist cuts is one of the things that gives them an edge over supermarkets.

A letter detailing the terms of the ban has been sent to 400 organisations representing farmers, butchers, caterers,

Adverts censured THE Vegetarian Society has that the series of newspaper advertisments were "shocking and offensive" and exaggerated the link to cancer. It suggested that a causal relauniversally

One of the adverts asserted that one in three people was affected by cancer, and eating a vegetarian diet reduced the risk of developing it by 40 per meat processors, consumers and other interested parties, who have until 4pm on Friday

John Fuller, director of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, which represents 3,000 of Britain's 10,000 independent butchers. said: "Our customers are strongly behind us. We are confident of being able to show massive opposition to the ban by the deadline."

All the federation's members were yesterday sent a poster for display in their shop windows. It reads "Wanted: Beef on the Bone. Protect Your Right To Choose" and invites shoppers to sign a petition objecting to the ban.

David Statham, food committee chairman of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, said: "As we understand it, butchers will still be able to have beef hanging on the bone in their shops. An offence will only be committed if beef is actually sold to a customer on the bone. Unless an inspector is present to witness such a transaction. it is difficult to see how an offence could be proved."

Dr Cunningham took his decision after receiving the results of new research by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC). the scientific body set up to advise the Government. This



Farmers took their tractors on to the A30 on the border between Devon and Cornwall yesterday in a go-slow protest at the policy on beef

showed evidence of BSE ("mad cow" disease) infectivity in dorsal root ganglia, nervous tissue in the bones of the spinal column of cattle which is left with the bone when meat is cut off the spine. Tests also found "provisional" evidence that bone marrow might harbour the BSE agent. However, the chance that anyone eating beef on the bone would contract BSE is roughly

☐ Sandy Mole, the President of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland, resigned

one in a billion.

last night in the face of mounting criticism from members over his handling of the beef crisis. Mr Mole, who was elected president in 1996 just days before the first problems hit the industry, said his presidency had "become untenable and unsustainable." He was given an icy reception when he addressed farmers blockading the ports of Strangaer and Cairmyan to prevent Irish beef imports at

Boycott ruling, page 14

### Pub defies 'bone police'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PUBLICAN in a farming community is to defy what he calls the Government's "bone marrow police" by serving a beef-on-the-bone menu two days after the cuts are banned. Lee Chadwick will offer marrowbone soup and a choice of roast ribs of beef on the bone, osso bucco, braised oxtail or T-bone steak. The

precaution against possible contamination from BSE-in-

fected cattle. Mr Chadwick said that locals at the Royal Oak in Dacre Banks, North Yorkshire, are already booking the £10 meal and that his 60-seat restaurant should be full a week on Friday. "People have had more than enough of selfseeking politicians and bu-

cuts are being outlawed as a reaucrats telling them what they can and cannot eat and drink, and in the process

destroying livelihoods."

Mr Chadwick would face a maximum fine of £5,000. Gordon Gresty, head of the North Yorkshire trading standards department, said: "If he goes ahead, it would be illegal and we would then have to investigate the matter to consider what action to take."

A really good reason to stop smoking and go jogging.

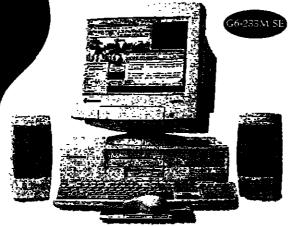
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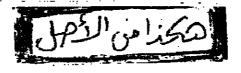
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Saving and Investing

## Toyota's French choice will create British spin-off

FRANCE'S long, intense and secret courtship of Toyota Motor Corporation led to the altar vesterday with the announcement that the Japanese car giant will build an assembly plant in the northern French city of Valenciennes.

Asians.

Toyota plans to spend E400 million on the factory. the largest Japanese investment ever in France, creating 2,000 jobs by 2001 in a region with more than 20 per cent unemployment.
While the decision is a blow

to British hopes for an extension of the Toyota plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, Britain is likely to enjoy a substantial spin-off from the French plant. Engines are expected to be provided by the company's engine assembly factory at Deeside, which means more investment and jobs for North Wales. Some parts for the vehicle could also be produced

In addition, Toyota will start production at Burnaston next year of the Corolla, its bestselling model around the world. By the end of the century, Burnaston will be able to turn out more than result, there was disappointment but little bitterness among workers and local union officials at Toyota's

Bob Higgins, regional secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: 'The very reason the company can afford to invest in Europe is due to the efforts of the workers in Burnaston. I have been given assurances that there will be continued investment in the South Derbyshire plant, and that is good news."

Ken Jackson, the union's general secretary, auributed Toyota's choice to Gordon Brown's decision to keep Britain out of the single European currency for the lifetime of this He said: "The UK will

continue to lose investment, jobs and skills until the Government decides to join." Toyota denied that its choice had anything to do with Britain's position on the single

The Tories found other reasons to blame the Government. John Redwood, Shadow able to turn out more than President of the Board of 200,000 cars a year. As a Trade, said the company's

decision proved that Labour was "bad for business" because interest rates and the strength of sterling were hitting exporters.

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. rejected the claims from both men. She said that Toyota simply wanted to produce cars nearer to its target markets.

Some 70 sites competed for the new plant, which will eventually produce 150,000 vehicles a year. Reasons for choosing France included Toyota's determination to make inroads into its large car market, of which Toyota has less than I per cent.

The Japanese company was also attracted by France's position at the heart of the future "euro zone" and a highly trained workforce in a region specialising in car manufacture. France's subsidy is expected to be about 500 million francs (£50 million).

National Park.



before mass tourism and closed in 1937.

opponents across a packed council the-

Yesterday enthusiasts faced their

alternative to the car. However, oppo-

nents said the line would bring noise

pollution and visual blight.

## Hope of jobs in town left to rust

FROM SUSAN BELL IN VALENCIENNES

JAPANESE flags fluttered alongside the Tricolour yesterday in the town square of Valenciennes, as France's north-eastern rust belt celebrated the deal. School children were presented with 2000

specially printed T-shirts. The region once had booming iron factories and a flourishing mining industry, but gradually the mines and factories closed, leaving skilled workers facing a bleak future. In 20 years. Valenciennes lost 40,000 jobs; more than one in five of the population is unemployed. In grim housing estates on the town's outskirts. the young have turned to

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drugs and petry crime. At the local job centre, staff say they have been besieged during the

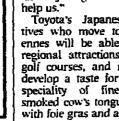
our town, but we must also ask ourselves: will the French automobile industry suffer as a result? We are also afraid

cy. It's because there's nothing to do. The Toyota factory won I fix everything but it will surely

Toyota's Japanese executives who move to Valenci-ennes will be able to enjoy regional attractions such as golf courses, and may even develop a taste for the local speciality of finely sliced smoked cow's tongue layered with foie gras and armagnac.

past week with inquiries about possible employment with José De Castro, 54, laid off for two weeks, said: "The situation here is desperate, so this is a wonderful thing for

that the Japanese will bring in their own specialists rather than hiring local people." Romard Kacioui, 25, who has never had a job, said: Unemployment is at the root of all the problems we have here - drugs and delinquen-





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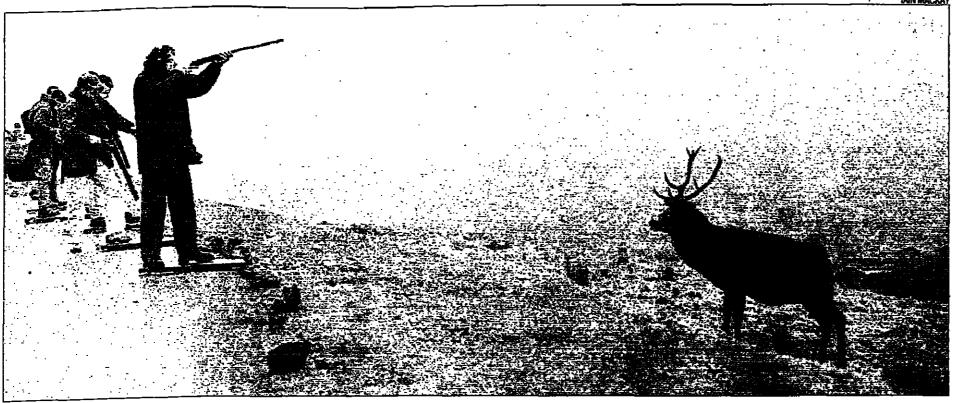


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A GROUP of clay-pigeon shooters in the Highlands were amazed when their party was joined by this red deer stay. The beast ambled out of the mist to watch 40 men blasting 12bore shotguns over a heather moor in Sutherland, northwest of Inverness (Shirley English writes).

Usually the sight of a gun or scent of a man, the stag's deadliest enemy.

## Shooters held at bay by bold stag

would be enough to send deer running for cover. But this mature specimen. with ten-point antiers, strolled towards the shooters, pausing occasionally to sniff the air or to graze on a tuft of heather. It did not

stop until it was within a few metres. lain Mackay, a retired stalker for the Red Deer Commission who captured the moment on film, said: "I have never seen anything like it. I think some of the lads found it a wee

bit off-putting with the big beast standing staring at them. Normally deer would be off over the first hill at the sight of a gun, never mind the sound." He said the antlers showed that the stag was neither young and

and the way it pricked its ears at the

Mr MacKay, from Torgormack, Highland, said: "The only explana-tion is that he is a very easy-going fellow." Other stalkers suggested the beast knew the stag-shooting season

## Retired detective apologises for missing murders

By PAUL WILKINSON

A RETIRED detective yesterday apologised to the families of three murdered schoolboys for suggesting they had died through solvent abuse.

Barry Stewart, then a

detective chief superintendent with Northumbria Police, led the inquiry into the deaths of

son, both 15, and Thomas Kelly, IS, whose bodies were found partly burned in allotment sheds or derelict houses near their homes in Sunderland. Mr Kelly was found in November 1993, David Han-

suggested they had been playing with fire while sniffing glue. They also claimed that, had the first death been treated as murder from the start. the two other boys might not have been killed.

Steven Grieveson was jailed for life for the murders.

The Police Complaints Authority yesterday published a report blaming the mistake on a lack of training and forensic evidence. Mr Stewart said: "I

best intentions I inadvertently added to the family's grief. The pathology failed to reveal a cause of death and there was a degree of speculation. The parents believed the comments besmirched their children's names and hindsight says what I did was wrong."

the results of tests after David Hanson's death were not available until after David Grieff's death which therefore was not a result of any lack of diligence on the part of police". Alan Oliver, Northumbria's Assistant Chief Constable, ap-

ologised for "the lack of sensitivity towards the families".

## span for rare weed

Isle of Wight have become careful cultivators of one of the world's rarest weeds, treating it with as much care as they devote to their cabbages and runner beans. The half-acre site at Lake is thought to be the only remaining home in Britain of Martin's ramping

co-operating with English Na-ture in studying the site to discover why it provides such a good habitat for the pink-

A survey by Hampshire and sle of Wight Wildlife Trust found hundreds of the weeds at the site. Patrick Cloughley, of the trust, said: "There is only one other known site in Britain, in west Cornwall, but the plant has not been seen there recently. Outside Britain it exists only at a few sites in France, Spain and Portugal."

## An allotted

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

ALLOTMENT holders on the

fumitory, Fumaria reuteri. Eight allotment holders are flowered plant.

### **Times Christmas Appeal**

## Helping captive wildlife regain their pride

FROM JOANNA BALE IN PORT ELIZABETH

an acacia tree under a cloudless African sky, two magnificent lions yawn contentedly as they survey the acres of bush around them. It is a far cry from two years ago, when they were haddied in a tiny cage on the roof of a bar in Tenerife.

Rescued by the Born Free Foundation - one of the two charities nominated by The Times this year for its Christmas Appeal — they were flown to a South African game reserve earlier this year and released into a new six-acre enclo-

sure on Monday. The move coincides with the opening yesterday of a vation and education centre at the Shamwari game reserve near Port Elizabeth to create awareness of how wildlife is cruelly treated in captivity.

The centre, jointly run with the Born Free Foundation, will also become an international sanctuary for African animals found in similar situations. Visitors.

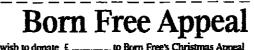
RESTING in the shade of including local children, an acacia tree under a will be able to see the lions - a male named Raffi and a female called Anthea who have made a remarkable recovery and overcome the behavioural problems associated with captivity, such as endless pacing up and down. Will Travers, the chief executive of BFF, arrived at

Shamwari on Sunday with his mother, the charity's founder, Virginia McKen-na. He said: Raffi and Anthea were the catalyst for this centre. It took us the best part of five years to get them out — and to have them here is wonderful."

Adrian Gardiner, owner of the reserve, who has spent seven years trans-forming 40,000 acres into a lush natural habitat for hundreds of animals, including elephant and rhino, added: "It is not only local people, but also children around the world who will be able to access Raffi and Anthea's story via the



Raffi and Anthea at Shamwari game reserve



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reener

# Anger at US plan for pollution deal with Russia

AN INTERNATIONAL rescue fund to help to save small island nations from rising sea levels was expected to be approved last night as Ameri-ca offered to back "real reductions" in greenhouse gases.

But the United States' strategy angered environmentalists and officials from several nations, who claimed that the proposals would do little to prevent global warming.

Under the plan, the United States would set up a carbon trading block with Canada, Australia. New Zealand and, significantly, Russia.
Stuart Eizenstat, the US

Under-Secretary of State for economic, business and agri-cultural affairs, said that there had been rumours that the US was ready to offer only a 2 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide, between 2008 and 2012.

But he said that figure underestimated the US proposal: "We are working on a new approach of trading with-

in an umbrella of countries." American sources said the United States had offered to make a 5 per cent reduction. But the US plan, described by one green group as a "fiddle" and the worst of all possible scenarios, will allow America to offset its rising carbon dioxide pollution by "buying in, at cheap prices, the huge emission reductions which have occurred since 1990 in Russia since the collapse of its

roofs in bright, reflective col-

ours could save cities huge

sums in reduced fuel and air

conditioning bills, a team of

economists said yesterday

light coloured roofs and pave-

ments, with tree planting and

vegetation schemes to create

shade and to help to bounce

solar radiation away, could

The team says the strategy

cent and save \$500 million a

The economists believe that

a city such as London would

benefit despite its cooler cli-

mate. While homes and busi-

nesses would have to turn up

would cut demand for air conditioning by 20 per cent, local smogs by about 12 per

Studies of Los Angeles

(Nick Nuttall writes).

ecol the city by 6F.



Eizenstat: working on a new approach of trading

Russia have fallen by nearly 30 per cent during the past five to seven years and will equate to some 3.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide available to be traded by 2000.

John Gummer, the former Environment Minister and a member of the British delegation, said: "This will allow America to do less by buying from Russia emissions that Russia would never have emit-

ted anyway. America is treating this as trade negotiation over the price of beans instead of a lastditch discussion to protect the planer. They are horse trading. I wish this was just about horses but it is about whether some countries disappear under the waves, or areas such heavy polluting industries. as Bangladesh, or even the sea Carbon dioxide emissions in coast of my constituency in

they were absorbing less solar

energy, the costs would be

more than offset by the energy

Amory Lovins, of the Rocky

and other savings in summer.

Mountain Institute in Snow-

mass, Colorado, said that

would include fitting tower

blocks with energy-efficient

heating, lighting and air-con-

ditioning. Studies indicated

that savings on fuel and

emissions of carbon dioxide

could be between 50 and 75 per

cent in a 20-year-old building.

Stephen De Canio, Professor

of Economics at the University

Canio also said that forecast-

ers in the oil industry who

believed that cuts in energy

use would trigger economic decline were talking "hot air".

His views were backed by

California, Professor De

Clean Development Mecha-**Bright ideas for** nism, will help countries facing the worst impacts, such as low-lying islands and coral atolls, carry out so-called adaptation projects.

John Ashe, the United Naa greener city tions Ambassador for Antigua the heating in winter because PAINTING pavements and

and Barbuda and a leading delegate with the G77 group of developing nations, said yesterday: "Such schemes include re-zoning beaches, building sea walls or moving buildings and intrastructure back into the interior."

Suffolk, are flooded forever."

British officials were treat-

ing the American proposal

with caution and said that

there needed to be a limit on

the level of US pollution that

could be offset by Russia's

carbon credits.

Mr Eizenstat said that a

significant reduction in US

emissions depended on Amer-

ica securing a package of measures. These included the

the International Conference on Climate Control approving

the idea of carbon sinks -

forests that soak up carbon

dioxide and which some na-

tions want to be counted

against their domestic emis-

sions. Other measures the US

wants include making the deal

involve six greenhouse gases

rather than the three proposed

Last night the delegates in

Kyoto were also struggling to agree another proposal that would set differing green-

house gas reductions for

industralised nations. Euro-

pean Union members would

have a net target of an 8 per

cent reduction, America's

would be 5 per cent and Japan's would be just 4.5 per

cent. John Prescott, the Depu-

ty Prime Minister, said that

this deal would be hard for

At least one significant area

of agreement was set to be

endorsed in the guise of a

rescue package for nations

vulnerable to global warm-

ing. The scheme, called the

Britain to accept.

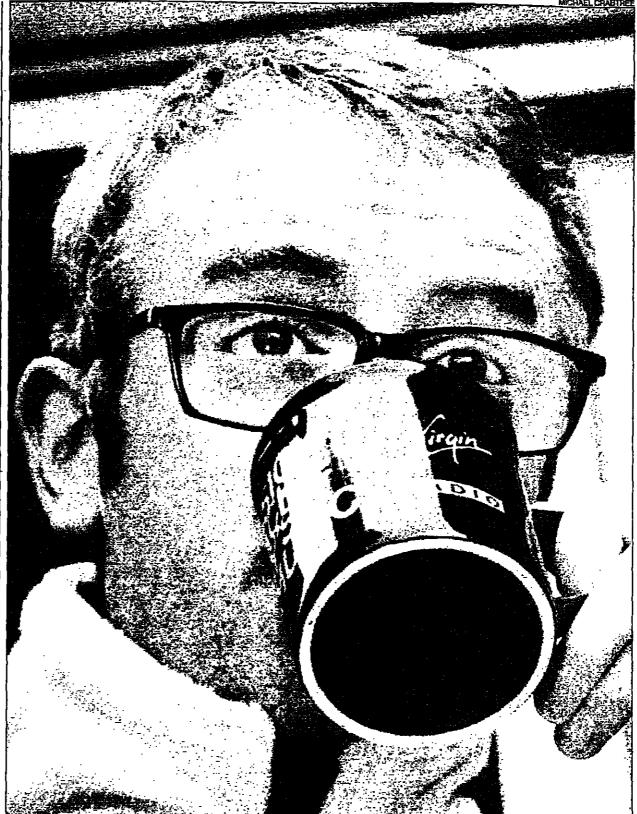
by the European Union.

he added.

The scheme is being hermaker as it brings the developed and developing worlds closer together.

The rescue plan will be funded by fees paid by rich nations. The United States, with support from scores of countries, is keen to offset its carbon gas emissions by carrying out clean energy and tree-planting projects in the Third World.

These projects, known as deemed to be a cheaper way of kerbing greenhouse gases in the developed world.



Chris Evans, Virgin Radio's new proprietor, taking tea and reporters' questions at the station yesterday morning

### Evans happy to take a pay cut to make his dream come true

By Carol Midgley MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS EVANS says he is "skint" after paying £80 million to take over Virgin Radio. During his breakfast show yesterday, the radio and television presenter made repeated references to his penniless status. "Cashpoints are a thing of the past." he said. "I haven't got any money." Mr Evans was taken on by Richard Branson for £200,000 over ten weeks, which he donated to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Yesterday he said he would now be taking an 80 per cent pay cut and awarding himself £4,000 a week: "I had to reduce my fees to allow the bottom line of the company to grow." Among the records played yesterday on his three-hour show was The

Lunatics (Have Taken Over The Asylum) what I do — giving ideas and producing by the Fun Boy Three. what I do — giving ideas and producing the programmes." Asked if he would

London headquarters with hangovers from a celebration party the night before looked relieved about the takeover. Many had feared redundancies if the station had been bought by Capital as had looked likely. Mr Evans arrived erinning minutes before his show started at 7am and declared that owning a radio

station was a dream come true. He put up £2 million in cash and his stake in his Ginger Productions Company, valued at £30 million, to buy Virgin Radio. The rest of the money came from Apax Partners, the investment group, and French bankers Paribas.

Yesterday he said: "The most important thing is that I will continue to do iour in view of his new responsibilities. Mr Evans said: "I can't go corporate, although we have gone corporate from a business point of view, but I can do what I want." He said there was a massive lack of on-air talent on television and radio and it was his ambition to nurture new talent. "It's up to me while I'm still young enough, because when I am 40 I won't know who the 'in' people are

Mr Evans told listeners: "We're not working for Richard Branson any more. but he's going to be looking after us. He will be giving us all his wisdom. He is like our Uncle Richard and if we have any problems we are going to see him."

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF** Oyston's rape plea rejected by judges

Oyston, 64, lost his appeal against convictions and a sixyear prison sentence for the rape and indecent assault of a teenage model.

His lawyers said that he would seek remedy at the European Court of Justice. Oyston was ordered to pay prosecution costs estimated at £100,000, as well as his own. He had claimed that the girl was not the innocent described during the trial, and that there was new evidence, including an affair she had had in Crete. Lord Jus-tice Phillips said: "The brief relationship with a young man is of no relevance to the question of whether she was

#### Seconds away

PC David Alleock, 37, who was sexually discriminated against in an assault course test to become a dog handler - he was within 14 seconds of the limit set for women officers but 46 seconds outside that for men - has accepted an undisclosed sum from Hampshire police.

#### Zero tolerance

The head of a crime prevention panel in Middlesbrough has resigned in protest at the suspension of Ray Mallon, the town's head of CID who backs zero tolerance". Dorothy Sewell, who has served on the panel for 15 years, has begun a petition for his reinstatement.

#### Pallbearer dies

An elderly pallbearer col-lapsed and died after trying to lift a coffin trolley into the back of a hearse. Colleagues failed in their attempts to revive Austin Willcocks. 76. a lay preacher and former postman who worked for a firm of funeral directors in Cullompton, Devon.

#### Singer arrested

Shane MacGowan, the singer, was arrested after allegedly throwing a microphone stand into the crowd at a concert at Liverpool University. Mr MacGowan, former ly with The Pogues, was not charged and has been released on police bail pending further inquiries.

#### Bank's red mist

A customer with a £300 overdraft limit received a bank letter warning him that he was more than £50 million in debt and had ten days to pay. Matthew Williams. 23, an assistant pub manager from Llanishen, Cardiff, was £200 overdrawn. Barclays has apologised for the error.

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## Tories will vote with Labour to boost rebellion

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

vote with the Government over its plans to cut singleparent benefit in the hope of maximising a Labour rebellion tonight.

William Hague announced yesterday that his party would number of Labour backbench ers who say they will vote er tent and between 25 and against the Government continued to grow.

Last week the Tories said that they would abstain on the weem they realise that the issue but party strategists privately admitted that the new tactic to vote with the Government would encourage more MPs to rebel. Ken Livingstone and his friends would never be seen joing into the same division lobby as us," one Tory MP said.

Mr Hague said his party would back the Government because the Tories had introduced the cuts. "I'm not afraid to go into the same lobby as the Government, of saying: if you want to adopt the same

THE Tories have decided to walvote with you on principle are honesty."

resterday about a dozeni Labour MPs made clear that the, would vote against the Government's decision to cut single-parent benefit by So a week. But backbenchers stained that at least 20 MPs

were worte against the Gov- nore would abstain. the whips suspect that n . of these will peel off

Givernment has no intention of raking any concession on th- enefit measure. They also hope to hide many of the alta entions by agreeing that the 50 MPs who will be away .. king in their constituenci. will not be recalled. Other Not are said to be away on

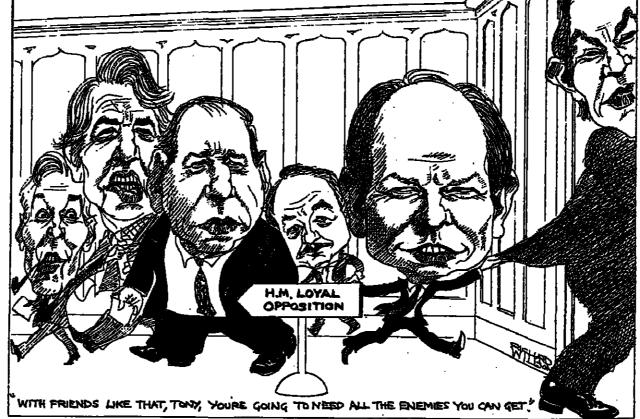
se - t committee trips.

Ent some of the abstaining reiels insisted that they would ruin up in the Commons and on their hands" to show their dissent.

Labour whips were frantically trying to persuade potentia! rebeis to fall into line, but they admitted that those who had or cosed the cuts on radio or ter ision had pushed themse' es into a corner and they were unlikely to change their mind. They maintained that Nick Brown, the Chief Whip would suspend any MP who vered against the threeline whip, and possibly those who abstained.

It is against the Labour Party's new disciplinary code to vote against the Government. Mr Brown will make a decision on disciplinary action this afternoon, but party sources insisted that the size of the revolt would not influence

The leftwinger Tony Benn disclosed yesterday that he will vote against a Labour Government for the first time in 50 years. Last time he defied the whip was in 1947 when he voted against a measure to call up for the Korean war reservists who had served in the Army. Yesterday Mr Benn



science vote to cut the income

of the poorest people. Other Labour MPs likely to join him in voting against the Government include Brian Sedgemore, Dennis Skinner. Llews Smith, Ronnie Campbell, Dennis Canavan, Audrev Wise and Lynne Jones, John Marek, Ken Livingstone and

Polly Newton reports on accusations of crude and repulsive suggestions and gestures

Labour whips are hoping to avoid any resignations by ministerial aides, but insist that if any defy the Government they will be sacked.

MPs will also vote tonight on an amendment which radically reduces the time that people can backdate benefit claims. Last year the Tories

to reduce backdating from 12 months to three months, but Labour has gone further and wants it reduced to one month. Some Labour MPs are also expected to rebel on this issue.

Earlier yesterday Mr Hague tried to whip up Labour dissent by accusing Mr Blair of exerting excessive control over his MPs.

Labour's discipline made it easier to get good headlines from time to time. Mr Hague said. "But I don't envy it in the long term because I think he's creating a lot of mindless robots in the Labour Party. There are some Labour MPs sitting in the House of Commons who daren't say

## Shredding 11050 files to be a criminal offence

By Valerie Elliott WHITEHALL EDITOR

MINISTERS and civil servants could face jail or a substantial fine if they destroy government material requested for release under new Freedom of Information laws,

The proposal is included in tomorrow's Government White Paper on Freedom of Information and represents a significant victory for Dr David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who is determined that any law should be radical and

have "teeth". The White Paper says that all papers should be released unless there are compelling public interest reasons to withhold information. Only papers relating to the security services and legal proceedings would remain exempt from disclosure requirements. In other areas, departments would be required to disclose the facts

and analysis behind decisions. The paper also proposes the appointment of an independent Information Commissioner, with the power to order the opening of Whitehall files. Ministers believe this measure would ensure public confidence in the new laws.

Members of the public will have direct access to the Commissioner and will not have to go through a laborious route through Parliament. The present role of the Parliamentary Ombudsman in adjudicating disputes between departments and members of the public is considered too complex. Inquiries take many weeks — and some over two years — to be resolved.

It is possible that the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Michael Buckley, could be given new powers and more resources to take on requests under Freedom of Information. At present members of the public must refer a complaint through an MP but one option might be allow individuals direct access to him. Last year only 2,000 requests for information were made under the government's code on access to information.

## Women MPs reveal sexism of men about the House

Griffiths: the culprits

WOMEN MPs run a gauntlet of sexist comments and gestures at Westminster, according to a television programme to be broadcast next month. Chief culprits, women on both

sides of the House say, are the Tories. One of the most startling allega-tions concerns two Conservative MPs who regularly "put their hands out in front of them as if they are weighing melons" when women are speaking in the chamber.

Jane Griffiths, new Labour MP for Reading East, tells the Westminster Women programme that she does not know who the culprits are "because they all look the same to me". Ms Griffiths also describes being interrupted by mocking laughter when she first spoke in the Commons. "There are things you half hear and

you're not sure if you heard it right, and they use gesture and body language which gets missed by the cameras so they can't be caught at it. They do it on purpose. It's to put us off our stride. It's just another tactic in the battle and they will use anything. and men have always done that when they feel threatened by women."

Ms Griffiths said yesterday that younger Tory MPs seemed more likely than their older colleagues to behave in a sexist way. "If there is anything about health, whenever you mention breasts or pregnancy, they

giggle. They can't help it . . . it must be the public school they went to." Emma Nicholson, who defected

from the Tories to the Liberal Democrats during the last Parliament, says that her former Tory colleagues used to make "some of the most crude and repulsive suggestions" about women on the opposite benches. She often left the chamber rather than tolerate it. T've never heard phraseology like it."
Other women MPs believe they

have no particular cause for complaint. Gwyneth Dunwoody, the longserving Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, says of her male colleagues: "They are vicious to one another so you shouldn't be a woman

From 30mm

to 50mm

to 75mm Zoom

politician if you can't deal with it." And Maria Eagle, the new Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, says she will give as good as she gets. "When it gets really offensive, I think it can be shocking but I wouldn't take it without responding in kind."

In a rare interview, the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, responds to the suggestion that she was harsher on new women MPs after the general election than on the men. She says: "It is to be regretted if they feel that because it really isn't the case. I feel for them very much." □ Westminster Women, an LWT

production, begins on January 4 at 1.10pm on ITV.



Eagle: promises to give as good as she gets

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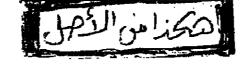








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#### NHS WHITE PAPER 11

**Patients** 

must be

treated as

partners,

**GPs told** 

By IAN MURRAY

DOCTORS must stop patron-

ising patients and treat them

as partners, according to the

first set of ethical guidelines

for surgeons. The new rules

are meant to put an end to the

practice of doctors carrying

out operations without first telling patients what the con-sequences might be.

Sir Rodney Sweetman, pres-

ident of the Royal College of

Surgeons of England, said:

Surgeons now are much more conscious of their re-sponsibility for explaining things than they were. There is

a difficulty in deciding how

much to tell a patient not to frighten them, but that must

all be part of the personal

relationship you need to

that patients must never be

used as guinea pigs and should always be given a reasonable explanation of the

benefits, dangers and alterna-

tives to any operation they are

The guidelines make it clear

build."

being offered

## Dobson heralds end to internal market

GP-led local commissioning groups will be central to

the revamped health service, Ian Murray reports

THE radical ten-year programme for the National Health Service set out by the Government yesterday offers no extra money, a capped budget, and improvements funded largely by cutting £1 billion of red tape.

The White Paper is intended to shape the NHS for the second half-century of its life, with many of the reforms introduced by the Conservatives in the past seven years being dismantied. The competitive internal market is to be replaced with an integrated approach, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told MPs yesterday. GP-led local commissioning groups will be set up, responsible for implementing a three-year health improvement programme to meet the needs of each area.

The White Paper foreshadows the involvement of local authorities, responsible for funding community care, in drawing up these health improvement programmes. These will include drives for better housing, education and employment opportunites to help reduce poverty.

The existing fundholding scheme, which about 55 per cent of all GPs have joined, is to be end in April 1999. Pilot schemes for a system of primary care commissioning groups are to start next April. Funds for the revamped health service will be capped, with money shared among the health authorities, taking ac-

count of differing needs. The reduced number of health authorities will be in charge of allocating their THE MAIN POINTS

Abolition of the internal market and GP fund-holding introduced by the

GPs and community nurses to have control of buying most hospital and nmunity care

Faster and more de-pendable information for patients, including a 24-nour helptine, an NHS information superhighway A guarantee of specialist care for cancer patients within two weeks

Reducing red tape and bureaucracy by £1 billion over the next five years A new NHS Charter to rebuild public confidence.

funds to each of the primary care groups, comprising GPs and community nurses, in their areas. The authorities will be responsible for overseeing the effectiveness of the NHS in their area and will be able to hold the primary care groups to account if things go wrong. Special teams can go in to sort things out if budgets and care fall below standard.

The primary care groups will cover an area of 100,000 patients, and will be responsible for commissioning services for their community, working with social services. They will control a single, unified, capped budget and will be able to spend that money according to local need.

Four types of primary care groups will be set up initially. At the lowest level will be some

that act in support, advising the health authority in commissioning care for their population. Groups ready to take responsibility for managing the budget will work as part of the health authority. At a higher level of responsibility, groups can become estab-lished as free-standing bodies accountable to the health authority for commissioning care. The Government expects all groups ultimately to reach this level. At the highest level, these free-standing groups will be responsible for both health and community ser-Hospital trusts will be party

to the local health improve-ment programme. They will agree long-term service agree-ments with the primary care groups. These agreements, of a minimum of three years, will be for the provision of care for different sections of the com-munity such as the elderly. heart patients or children. To ensure quality there will

vices in their area.

be two new national bodies. One will help ensure consistent access to services and quality of care throughout the country. The other will be an institute for clinical excellence. Locally, quality is to moni-

tored by a commission for health improvement which will support the clinical services, and tackle shortcomings by invitation or if the Health Secretary is advised that the local group is underperforming or considers a problem has not been tackled. Standards will be laid down in long-term agreements that will replace the present annual contracts. There will be a system of clinical governance in trusts and primary care groups to ensure that standards are met, backed by a statutory duty for

quality in hospitals. A league table of cost efficiency is to be introduced. For the first time each medical procedures and operation is to be given a clear definition so that different trusts will be able to perform them according to agreed standards. The league tables will then show how much each trust charges to carry out the same service. The Government hopes this

will lead to savings. The performance league tables established by the Conservatives, under the Patient's Charter, are to be replaced with clinical standards designed to enable comparisons between the medical capability of each trust.

Leading article, page 19



Chaand Nagpaul, above, is chairman of the Harrow commissioning group of 41 GPs looking after 73,000 patients in Stanmore, northwest London. His group is one of the commissioning schemes chosen to pilot the new system. "I welcome the policy of replacing multiple fundbolders with a localitybased model which will ensure there is equality of treatment within that population and flexibility in terms of the

Juliana Vein. right, has

worked for the past ten years

as one of two nurses in an

inner London practice with

10,000 patients. "Nurses like

us are already taking on

many of the duties and

responsibilities of doctors.

and the White Paper seems

to mean that trend will

continue. With my colleague

we swap between issuing

repeat prescriptions and

providing consultations to

patients. Repeat prescrip-

tions means we have to be

able to answer all a patient's

queries about the drugs they

are being prescribed, make sure they are getting the right doses, understand ge-

neric equivalents and keep

the computer up to date. We

do all the family planning

clinics, smear tests and re-

calls, take histories and even

see patients if the doctor

doesn't have time. After ten

THE PRACTICE NURSE

REACTION: THE NON-FUNDHOLDER

levels of responsibility in the primary care groups. Having a unified budget for a locality is a better system but at the end of the day we know that the total amount that will be available is not going to be enough to satisfy demands. would not want to hoodwink the

population into believing that just by changing the way the NHS works they will end up in receipt of the kind of care When they fail to get it I don't want the public to point the finger at the primary care groups who are not responsible for the health service being underfunded. There is a certain amount of bureaucracy in all this and you have to wonder whether it will actually work."

THE FUNDHOLDER

50 GPs. all with different needs and priorities. You

years in the job you soon sort out who needs emergency treatment and who can come back later. We do vaccinations, bandage cut fingers, take blood samples and do annual tests on all the over-75s. Without us you would need a lot more doctors and the White Paper seems to acknowledge that."

Jonathan Munday, right, is one of three partners who run one of the six GP practices awarded a Charter Mark this month. They look after 10,000 patients in an area of Westminster with a high level of poverty. The White Paper shows that the Government is accepting that fundholding works and their idea is to compel nonfundholders to become fundholders. But it is a recipe for chaos. With 100,000 patients in each group, there will be around

can't get them all sitting round a table arguing and if

you did you would lose 50

GPs' sessions while they

argued. In my practice 1

employ a manager to do

what I want, but with this

system you will end up with a

manager telling the doctors

what to do. I do not understand why this has all been put through this way. We were promised pilot projects by the Government before anything was done and all of a sudden there are no pilot projects and we have been presented with something before there has been prop-

#### they have been encouraged to expect.

"Parients must be seen as partners and must be given much more opportunity to ask questions and not be fobbed off," said Alan Johnson, professor of surgery at Sheffield University, who chaired the working party that drew up

the new guidelines.
"Attitudes are changing and there has to be an end to the old paternalistic approach of a doctor telling a patient, We know what's best for you'."

The guidelines are a progressive move away from the current legal position which means a doctor cannot be sued for negligence for failing to warn a patient of the dangers of an operation. The courts have held that if a number of senior surgeons give evidence that they would not have told a patient about the dangers then any case for negligence fails.

The guidelines also advise surgeons they have the moral right not to prevent the death of a brain-damaged patient doomed to living a demonstrably awful life, although the final decision must be taken by the consultant in charge.

The document says treatment to keep someone alive in these circumstances does not have to be given to adults or children who cannot think for themselves where such action is believed by the clinical team – in consultation with relatives -- to be in the patient's best interests.

The guidelines underline that active euthanasia is illegal in Britain and the Republic of Ireland, but say surgeons should respect the "living will" wishes of patients who ask that specific treatments should not be given for particular conditions, such as irreversible brain damage.

Surgeons are also advised that as rationing is inevitable in the health service, they must ensure that treatment is given on the basis of clinical need and not on any grounds of social status, class or personal attributes. Doctors are also warned against "going beyond the limits of the permissable dissemination of factual information" publicising treatments in order to obtain more patients.

#### Pledge to speed up checks for cancer

EVERYONE with suspected cancer will be able to see a spcialist within two weeks of a GP deciding that an urgent appointment is needed (lan Murray writes). The White Paper promises that this arrangement be in place for suspected breast cancer by April 1999, and for all other suspected cases a year later.

The health service will provide a 24-hour telephone advice line staffed by marses. This is to be piloted through three beiplines starting next March, and should cover the entire country by 2000.

Ouicker test results, specialist advice in the doctor's surgery and on-line booking will be made possible by connecting every GP surgery and each hospital to NHSnet, the service's own in-house information system.

waiting time for prescriptions through links between the pharmacies and the GPs. Demonstration sites will be set up in every region by the end of next year to examine how the Net can be most useful patients.

By the end of 1999, all

computerised surgeries will he able to receive test results over the line, and by 2002 it is expected that this service will be available everywhere.

of out-patient appointments

It could also mean less

#### This takes us another step down the American way

#### ON POLITICS

practitioners

monitored by health authorities. However, there is a clear intention to restrain the 5 per cent annual rise in GP referrals to hospital specialists. A telephone helpline staffed by nurses is being set up in the hope of reducing demands on doctors and

vetted in detail by the Treasury. There is a close parallel between the Government's approaches to health and to schools. The emphasis is on local professionals most trusted by the public, GPs and headteachers. They are being given more professional and financial responsibility. The assurance of quality to parents and patients will be provided by strong central inspection. Just as the threat of intervention lies behind failing schools and teachers, so doctors and hospitals will face the pressure of a national schedule of comparative costs for treating different conditions, a new Commission for Health Improvement, capping of management costs and public measures of the performance of trusts.

This is similar to the proposed "best value" system for improving local authority performance. Comparison, not competition, is now the watchword, with incentives for greater efficiency.

The missing link is patient and parental choice. The Government is relying on local professionals reinforced by a Whitehall stick and performance tables in the background to ensure improved quality. But a patient dissatisfied with his or her GP, and a parent with the local school, has little alternative. The Government needs to strengthen the consumer discipline on local

PETER RIDDELL



THE NHS White Paper is a good deal better than one might have guessed from listening to Frank Dobson's hyperbole. The Health Secretary has never been a man to undersell a policy and yesterday he porrrayed himself as the son of Aneurin Bevan, sweeping way the wasteful and bureaucratic competirive internal market" and modestly promising to give "our country a modern and dependable health service that is once again the envy of

The reality of the plan prepared by Mr Dobson and Alan Milburn is less dramatic, but still worthwhile. There is a good deal of continuity with the Tories' NHS reforms, as John Maples pointed out in one of

the most balanced, and therefore effective, contributions I have heard from the Opposition frontbench for some time. The Government has accepted the key principle of the

1990s' changes — the purchaser/ provider split which Mr Dobson described as the "separation between planning and providing services". The White Paper proposes. both to end some of the short-term disruptions caused by the internal market and to remove some of the anomalies created by having less than three fifths of the population covered by GP fundholders. Mr Dobson made much of replac-

ing competition by partnership. Behind this rhetorical flourish lies a devolution of power to general

#### RIDDELL

and community nurses under the form of primary care groups, which will align clinical and financial responsibility. We are moving to a British version of the American managed health care system. These groups will spend all the health money for their patients within a single unified budget. extending the current fundholding budgets for elective surgery. In theory, this is a tighter overall limit than now, though there will be greater flexibility to shift within

budgets, which will anyway be

#### hospitals. At the same time, the Government is hoping to reduce both the upheavals and administrative costs of the internal market by moving from annual to three-year, and eventually five-year, service contracts. Together with a reduction in the number of health authorities, the hope is that this will shift an extra El billion from bureaucracy into frontline services. We will see, though the figure was apparently

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#### US tribute to rebel angers Beijing

FROM JAMES PRINGLE

CHINA reacted angrily yesterday to a meeting between President Clinton and Wei Jingsheng. 2 prominent dissident and advocate of democracy freed last month after nearly 18 years in prison. He is undergoing medical treatment in the United States.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Mr Clinton's meeting on Monday was "completely wrong. The Chinese Government objects to American officials meeting with Wei. The US Government knows our position very clearly."

Diplomats said Beijing was annoyed that Mr Clinton had received the rebel at the White House so soon after President Jiang Zemin's state visit last month. In Beijing's eyes, the encounter "de-values Mr Jiang's reception on the White House lawn", said one envoy.

## Swiss banks' hunger for profits stirs backlash

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE Swiss are bracing themselves for a winter of disconient after the merger of their two largest banks brought threats of a tough response from trade unionists. They gave warning of an unusually hard fight against at least 7,000 job losses and said they were in no mood to talk.

Politicians from all sides condemned the cuts: Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, the Economy Minister, admitted it was a substantial blow to a stagnant economy. Banks and insurance companies, previously regarded as part of the social fabric, have shed several thousand jobs recently and lost respect while seeking lower corporate taxes and posting record profits. Kaspar Villiger, the Finance Minister, hinted that a capital-gains tax could be introduced for the first time.

Switzerland's unemployment rate of 4.9 per cent is low by most standards but has risen fourfold in the past six years: for the first time this century unemployment is higher in Switzerland than the United States. The new United Bank of Switzerland (UBS), now the world's second-largest, is likely to close at

least a third of its branches. A confidential survey for the banks last month showed their popularity was at all all-

time low. High-street custom- ation refused to publish the ers were among their most study, although some figures severe critics, complaining were leaked to the press. about the main banks' reluc-Directors of the UBS have tance to offer start-up loans to done little to dispel accusathe small businesses needed to

tions of arrogance and callousboost the economy. It is not ness. They promised to create clear if there was also disconjobs but in the same breath tent about the banks' controspoilt the effect by saying the versial handling of Holocaust merger would only keep them

## Vatican denies Nazi gold link



Navarro-Valls: no plan to open Rome archives

EVERY USED LEXUS IS AS GOOD AS NEW

Rome: The Vatican has denied that it stored money and gold for Croatian fascists after the Second World War and said it had no plans to open its archives for the period.

The Vatican restated its denial yesterday in a statement by Joaquin Navarro-Valls, its chief spokesman, in response to last week's conference on Nazi gold in London. Switzerland has also come in for criticism over its gold dealings with the Nazis.

"As far as gold taken by Nazis in Croatia, research in the Vatican archives confirms

that there is no existence of documents relating to this, thus ruling out any supposed transaction on the part of the Holy See." Dr Navarro-Valls

The charges surfaced in July when an American cable television network reported the discovery of a 1946 Treasury Department document claiming that the Vatican allowed Croatian fascists to hide gold coins and cash worth about \$130 million (£79 million) which had been taken from Serbs Jews. (Reuters)

business Radical MP, told the banks they could expect a backlash: "in a direct democracy the bankers are in danger of exposing themselves to sanctions such as the removal

of banking secrecy."

Analysts said the new bank was a multinational giant which was only "Swiss" masmuch as it provided a marketing asset for its private banking arm, to be based in Basle.

Switzerland's banking secrecy laws have been watered down by parliament in recent years and financiers here are loath to acknowledge that they can offer little more legal discretion than some of their international rivals, apart from cases of tax evasion, for fear of losing their greatest

trademark. Last night unions were organising action against the UBS and called on the authorities to intervene. There were reports of a climate of fear inside the banks, with employees afraid to take a



Donatella Versace at the gala held in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art honouring her brother

#### Stars of style pay Versace homage

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DONATELLA VERSACE led hundreds of New York's glitterati in a lavish tribute to her murdered brother, the designer Gianni Versace, amid hints that the fashion house may soon try to tone down its extravagant image. Sting serenaded 900 guests

who had paid \$2,000 (£1,200) a plate to attend the fundraising gala for the Metropolitan Museum's Costume Institute on Monday night. Three thousand stylish latecomers paid \$200 just to attend the museum's Egyptian and Chi-

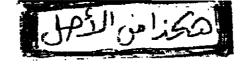
nese galleries. "We miss him," Ms Versace said of her brother, who was murdered by the serial killer Andrew Cunanan in Miami in July. "He would have loved to be here." Elton John co-

chaired the event with Ms Versace and Madonna made a speech. Both Elton John and Madonna disputed reports that they had squabbled with Sting over which of them would perform at the gala. An exhibition of Versace's designs opens at the museum

The Wall Street Journal reported vesterday that Ms
Versace and the designer's
brother, Santo, revealed that
they intended to revive a plan to make the company public that was shelved when Versace was murdered. "We needed shock in the beginning to get attention." Ms Versace told the newspaper. "But this is the 90s. We need to be known not just for expensive clothes but items that are wearable."

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# Rioting strikers clash with Mugabe police

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10 1997

PRESIDENT Mugabe's Government was plunged into crisis yesterday as the most comprehensive strike in Zimbabwe's history paralysed government and the private sector around the country.

Violence erupted in Harare in the morning after riot police, many carrying automatic rifles, met thousands of striking workers streaming into the city centre for a rally. Police met them with baton charges and blanketed streets with teargas fired from the

back of speeding trucks.
As strikers fled, mobs of youths responded with volleys of stones and set up barricades of dustbins and metal drums. Large parts of the capital became no-go areas as the violence spread to the poorer nownships in the south where mobs, pursued by police, burnt vehicles and closed off

roads from the city.
The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), which organised the one-day strike, and civic bodies accused the Government of starting the violence. Nearly every other urban centre was closed down by the strike, but only Harare was affected by violence.

The strike was called in

protest against taxes imposed a month ago to pay for a Zim\$4 billion (£165 million) package of benefits for guerrilla veterans of the Rhodesian war that ended in 1980. Last month MPs of Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) party voted down the increases in sales tax, income tax and levies on fuel and electricity, but were ignored by the Government.

ce homas

the next day. The huge response to the strike call is seen as having far wider implications than taxes, however. Observers said Mr Mugabe's hold on power had been seriously undermined, and that he would find it difficult to reassert his authority.

Strikers in Mbare township near the city centre shouted: "Give us guns, give us guns." Claudius Mutere, a driver,

said: "We are saying 'Down with Mugabe'. We are fed up with him and Zanu (PF). He has exploited us for 17 years. He must go." He was cheered by a crowd around him at the barricade.

"It is general discontent that is erupting," said Morgan Tsvangirai, secretary-general of the ZCTU. "This is a defining moment for our

The value of the Zimbabwe dollar, which collapsed three weeks ago, dropped nearly 20 per cent further yesterday, compounding an economic crisis ascribed largely to Mr Mugabe's recent moves to confiscate nearly 1,500 whiteowned farms.

Police were served with a High Court injunction in the morning to prevent them from stopping demonstrations, but their onslaught went on until early afternoon.
Police created the violence

by not allowing people to demonstrate, which is their constitutional right, said Mike Auret, director of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe.

Police cleared the city centre street by street, threatening



An African delegate lining up with Iranian women at the opening session yesterday of the Islamic conference summit in Tehran

## Iran's reformer wins over hardliners

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN TEHRAN

a dramatic evolution," said

BACKED by a demonstration of popular support, President Khatami, the moderate elected by Iranians seven months ago, appears to be winning the struggle against his hardline rivals.

Even Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme religious leader long seen as the leading Islamic hardliner, is moving closer to Mr Khatami's reformist camp.

The two had been at loggerheads since the President won a landslide victory, signalling intense popular frustration with the social restrictions of the Islamic state. Now there is talk that Avatollah Khamenei might transfer some of his powers to the executive. This could mark a turning point in the Islamic revolution that

began 18 years ago. "More and more important officials, are rallying round Khatami and Khamenei is

pean diplomat said. "I do not rule out some sort of gentlemen's agreement to share power. Khamenei would dearly love a slice of the President's popularity."

Mr Khatami won 70 per cent of the vote in May on a platform of tolerance and respect for the rule of law. Many here compare that result with a second revolution. "At least, you could call it

in particular of abusing hu-

Ibrahim Yazdi, the leader of an opposition party. While Ayatollah Khamenei had shunted aside the President to address the opening

session of yesterday's Islamic conference summit in Tehran with an attack on Israel and West's "carnal desires" and "gluttony", he also remarked on Mr Kharami's

The democratic forces in

Tehran: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, has of environmental degradation," he said in a speech recriticised Western democraleased yesterday at the Islamic summit in Tehran. cies for meddling in the "With their NGOs |non-govaffairs of Islamic countries, sheltering their dissidents and forcing them into eco-nomic submission. ernmental organisations). they are able to actively interfere in our affairs, insti-They accuse our countries gating our people to violence

Mahathir calls West 'meddlers' "They give refuge to those of our people who promote disruptive activities in our countries." Dr Mahathir said Western concepts of

There may have been more to

the unexpected tribute than

merely an attempt to boost the

facade of unity before leaders

from 55 Islamic states. Mr

Khatami, in turn, delivered a

starkly contrasting message

arguing that Islamic civil

society and its Western coun-

terpart were not necessaily in

conflict.

democracy were "no better than the feudalistic theocratic states which preceded them". He bas blamed foreign speculators for recent turmoil in Malaysia's

they may well be too powerful to resist," said Dr Farideh Farih, an American-educated political analyst.

Mr Khatami's popularity is not confined to the general public. He also enjoys wide support in the key holy city of

While huge, stern-faced murals of the late Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Khamenei cover the sides of many office blocks. Mr Khatami refuses to have his portrait reproduced on public buildings. Instead, his face beams from the pictures that people display in their homes.

While the conservatives would love to turn the clock back, there is little threat of violence," said a diplomat from a Nato country. The more immediate threat is of disillusionment and an even greater desire among people to emigrate if Mr Khatami is

#### **UN** gives warning on Islamic terror

By MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday warned Islamic countries not to allow extremists to resort to violence and terror in the name of Islam.

"They are sullying the image of a religion whose very name signifies peace," he told the Islamic Conference in Tehran. He called on the presidents, princes and ministers representing the conference's 55 member states to restore tolerance and justice to their rightful places in your societies".

His call, a barely concealed appeal to Iran's hardline cler-gy to cease their support for terrorist organisations, came amid tough criticism of the Taleban and other warring factions in Afghanistan. He said it was heartening that recent talks in Cairo might lead to a transitional govern-ment in Somalia. He also welcomed the signing of Tajik peace accords in Moscow. But he had harsher words for the factions in Afghanistan.

"Why? Because too many groups in Afghanistan — warlords, terrorists, drug dealers and others - appear to have too much to gain from war and too much to lose from peace and the rule of law." Afghanistan's seat at the conference was empty.

Mr Annan called on Islamic nations, representing about billion people, to join the United Nations as a partner in promoting peace and prosperity. The UN was committed to that vision but could not act alone.

Mr Annan's call for an end to Islamic terrorism was supported by Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. He said that the Muslim world was still suffering from fragmentation and disruption and was going through the worst as a result of "extensive militancy which has shed innocent Muslim blood in the

name of Islam".

Cairo: The militant
Gamaa al-Islamiya group in Egypt denied it had vowed to halt attacks on the country's tourism industry, highlighting a reported split in the

## Gandhi spurns political role Dreams of distant lands ease pain

**Humiliated Congress** 

fails to win support of the widow with a

magical name, writes

Christopher Thomas

SONIA GANDHI, a brooding presence over Indian politics, was 50 yesterday — a day she spent in typical isolation from the sycophamic politicians seeking to abase themselves at her large and magnificent bungalow in central Delhi. She barely

conceals her disgust for them.

Mrs Gandhi has a magical name that Congress wants her to use in the coming general election to save it from an lectorate alienated by shabby and calamitous bids for power, resulting in the unnecessary downfall last week of the United Front coalition Government.

But she retains a haughty distance, never saying anything significant in public and rarely, indeed, in private with the nation's most powerful men — except to tell them to leave her alone and sort out their problems without her. But senior members of Congress consistently humiliate themselves by begging her to enter politics, or at least to campaign actively in the election, due by March. They are dismissed with sphinx-like

Her unsmiling, dark-spirited demeanour has led magazines and newspapers to



Sonia Gandhi: dubbed Mona Lisa

dub her Mona Lisa, for want of a better label to hang on this mysteriously uncommunicative woman. Only once has she given an interview, and that was years ago. Since Rajiv Gandhi, her husband, was assassinated in 1991, she has preoccupied herself with polishing his reputation, mostly through the lavishly funded Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. The Italian-born Mrs Gandhi wears

only saris in public, and used to sport a red tikka on her forehead until her husband's assassination; widows do not wear the adornment. But she has failed to Indianise herself in the public mind, and she might become an electoral liability if she did enter active politics. She does not seem tough enough for the mauling she would get from opponents because of her foreign origins.

It is obvious after so long that she has no intention of entering politics, but Congress leaders continue to believe that her beauty and her name could inject glamour and life into a moribund

rganisation. She cares about politics only when it touches her personally or threatens to despoil her husband's name. Her life's mission is to dignify the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty. She is its guardian and preserver: it could yet be revived by her daughter, Priyanka, but apparently not yet.

Mrs Gandhi's disdain for most politicians shows even in photographs of her in the company of some of the most powerful men in India, many of them tarnished by corruption.

The culture of high-level personal corruption began with Indira Gandhi, as did the slow death of Congress. But that is not Sonia Gandhi's version of the past. which she idealises. She hated politics, which she idealises. She hater points, and made her husband pledge before they were married that he would never get involved. When he broke his word, she was devastated. In a rare personal comment in a book of family photographs, she wrote: For the first time in the LE process that the head leaves each the 15 years that we had known each other, there was tension between Rajiv and me. I fought like a tigress - for him, for us, for our children, for the life we had made together, for his flying, which he loved, for our uncomplicated, easy friend-

ships and, above all, for our freedom."

## of the tallest man in the world

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

THE world's tailest man, lying on two beds placed end to end, is critically ill in a Pakistani bospital. His massive hands and feet are swollen, his eyes red and half closed from two sleepless nights weeping in pain. It is a blessing from God to be so

against our Government and

tall," he says. "And a curse." Alam Channa, 43, grew until he was 28, reaching 7ft 8in. He weighs more than 28 stone. He cannot walk, can barely talk and can be saved only by surgery too sophisticated for the limited medical faci<u>li</u>ties of Pakistan.

He lies in a windowless basement room, with four constant attendants and companions, and professes two ambitions: to get well, and to visit the grave of Diana, Princess of Wales, Mr Channa would find it impossible to fit into an ordinary airline seat and, besides, he has no money for the fare. But he says his constant dreams of

this odyssey sustain him. The Pakistani Government has deposited \$10,000 (£6,000) with its Washington embassy towards the \$80,000 needed to save Mr Channa's life and

enable him to walk again. The American Embassy in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, seeks assurances that the balance will be met through government or private donations before it grants a visa. Meanwhile, time runs out.

As he waits, there are rumours that the Government put pressure on local doctors io perform surgery — which Mr Channa refused at the last minute — to prove their prowess before an international audience and that his companions persuaded him

state-owned Pakistan television network. PTV. which has so far paid around £7,100 in hospital fees. One kidney has failed, the other is deteriorating and he is diabetic. He has severe bladder problems and requires spinal surgery

Mr Channa worked for the

national donations.

because of a problem directly related to his size. He had an over-active pituitary gland that produced excessive amounts of growth hormone.



Alam Channa on his double bed in Islamabad

to reject local surgery in the He has hardly moved since hope of benefiting from inter-August, when he was admit-

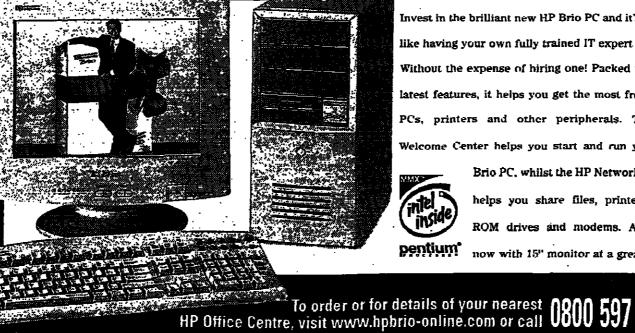
ted to hospital. He is not aware that he shares an entry in The Guinness Book of Records with Gul Mohammed, an Indian. also Muslim, who died recently - the world's shortest man. At 22.5in Gul Mohammed would barely have reached his kneecap.

Inaam Channa, a nephew, complained that his uncle was receiving "care but not treatin Pakistan, and should be moved urgently to the Virginia Urology Centre in the United States, at government expense.

There has been a recent austerity drive but, raising his hand in reproof, Mr Channa urges his companions not to criticise his Government. Whatever happens, he adds, is the will of Allah.

Speaking haltingly, he blamed the start of his troubles on a bad car accident in 1988; in 1995 another crash exacerbated his back problems. He is married with one grown-up child, a son, who is average height. I am glad he is not like me, he says.





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## European judges condemn France for failing to halt lorry boycott



French farmers' protests

tice yesterday issued a landmark judgment against the French Government for years of failure to prevent protesting farmers from disrupting the flow of fruit and vegetables

The ruling, which condemns France unequivocally for breaching the rules of the single market, bolsters the case for claims against states where protesters block the passage of goods from other EU countries. The French authorities had manifestly and persistently abstained" from taking action against demonstrating farmers, said the Luxembourg judges.

costs. While no other immediate consequence follows the ruling, its makes the French damage suits in national courts and will speed potential legal action in Luxembourg. The decision was a victory

for Britain, which joined the Commission and Spain in taking France to court. However, in a touch of irony, Britain could feature in an early test of the EU jurisprudence. Irish farmers and hauliers are seeking compensation ers turned meat away from British ports this month.
The judges' decision arrived

at the Commission yesterday at the same time as a letter from Lord Simon of Highbury, the Trade Minister, defending Britain against charges that the authorities had failed to act against the



Charles Bremner in Brussels reports on a judgment seen as a win for British hauliers, but their joy may be short-lived

mission last week gave Britain five days to respond to the allegations from Ireland after the port protests. Lord Simon reassured Mario Monti, the Commissioner for the Single Market, that "the Government takes a threat of disruption to trade extremely seriously ... Peaceful demonstration is acceptable, but attempts to prevent individ-uals going about their lawful business are not." The Government was taking steps yesterday to ensure that

enough police were on hand, Lord Simon said. Commission officials said they had been reassured, but further pro-

ceedings were possible.

The French Government said only that it was not surprised by the ruling to Luxembourg. The Commission hailed it as confirmation that national authorities were breaking European law if they failed to stop protesters interfering with the flow of goods. give a strong signal for the

an for Signor Monti Claims for damages must be handled by national courts, which will have to take account of the EU ruling. Ultimately, the deci-sion also makes it easier for the Commission to seek rapid EU court action to halt French-type protests.
France is under pressure

from Britain and other states for its failure to settle more than a tiny fraction of the damage claims made by victims of the 1996 lorry drivers' strike and faces a fresh batch from last month's week-long disruption by lorry drivers. The Loxembourg case sprang from the Commis-

sion's exasperation over the persistent inaction of the French police against the Coordination Rurale, the mili-

tant farmers' organisation, when it staged violent raids on lorries carrying Spanish strawberries and other produce between 1993 and 1995.

In stinging language, the judges rejected all of France's arguments that it had been doing its best, in difficult circumstances and that the police had often held back for fear of sparking more violence by the protesters. The French Government has adduced no concrete evidence proving the existence of a danger to public order with which it could not cope," it said. The judges deplored the police failure to intervene, "even where they far outnumbered the perpetra-

In his letter to the Commission, Lord Simon said the Government knew of only one

protest that had "apparently threatened" the import of beef products from Ireland. This had occurred in Holyhead. The police have said they will take action against the perpetrators if there is sufficient evidence to do so," he said.

☐ Santer angered: Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, has been angered by a decision by Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the monetary affairs Commissioner, to embark on a political career in France at a critical moment in preparations for the launch of the single currency. M de Silguy, 49, has accept-

ed an invitation from Gaullist party leaders to present hin-self as candidate for the presidency of the regional government of Britanny.

## Yeltsin aides hoard cash in secret accounts

plunged into another poten-tially damaging corruption scandal yesterday after details emerged about secret bank accounts held by dozens of senior figures in government.

in the wake of last month's scandal, which led to the dismissal of four prominent reformers who received large advances for an unpublished book, a Moscow newspaper has revealed how more than 70 people, including ministers, generals and diplomats, held hundreds of thousands of pounds in a shady Moscow

According to Moskovsky Komsomolets, which acquired a copy of the list from the prosecutor's office, the compromising evidence was discovered after investigators searched the offices of the chairman of the Rato Bank and found the names of account holders in a safe deposit-

The investigators were dumbfounded to see the names and sums deposited." wrote Aleksandr Khinstein, broke the story.

"Many of the people were household names in Russia. They give interviews to the media on how to improve the situation in the country and receive medals from the President. They are ministers, close assistants to President Yeltsin. generals of the Federal Security Service, and even one deputy prime minister."

Among the depositors listed were General Anatoli Kruglov, head of the State Customs

Cash corruption scandal involves

ministers and

generals, writes Richard Beeston

held more than £75,000; Vasili Vinogradov, chief of the consular department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and now the Ambassador to Australia, with more than £25,000; Valentin Kovalyov, the former Justice Minister. sacked over a sex scandal in June, with £160,000; and General Starovoitov, chief of the Federal Communications and Information Agency, who with

his wife had £150,000. There was no evidence to suggest that the amounts in the accounts were obtained illegally, but the sums were large in a country where Cabinet ministers are paid only about £600 a month.

suspicions because they were held in secrecy. Depositors never actually visited the bank and only one highly trusted employee was charged with dealing with the account

Vitali Rats, a spokesman for General Kruglov, admitted the existence of the account, but insisted nothing was im-proper. He put a certain amount of money in this bank account for two years and received interest. The leadership is aware of the situation and thinks that it is perfectly egal," Mr Rats said.

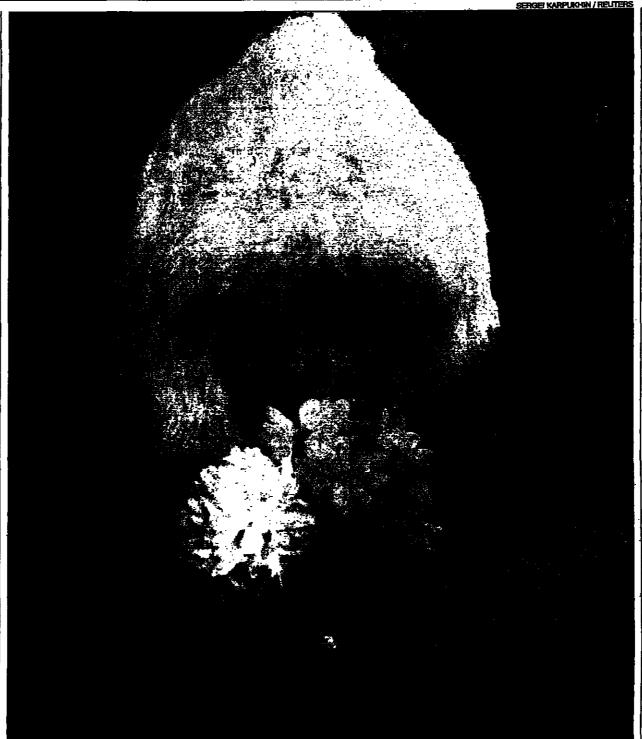
President Yeltsin may take a different view. Earlier this year, in an attempt to root out corruption, he forced top officials to disclose their per-sonal wealth. In September he repeated his pledge to crack down on graft and bribery, which is so common that the country recently came top in the world league of corrupt

The military, where theft and corruption are rampant, has been the main target of the Government's efforts and several senior generals and admi-rals have been charged and

The first real sign of action in the Kremlin came last month when Mr Yeltsin sacked four senior figures in his Government for "unethical" behaviour in accepting £55,000 each from a publisher's owned by one of the country's largest banks.

While at the time the move was applauded as a blow against corruption, the latest evidence suggests that the mvorved were re small compared with what other officials at every level of government have been quietly

☐ Jail order: A Moscow city court ruled that a general who was once an adviser to President Yeltsin must remain in prison while a corruption investigation is going on. Konstantin Kobets was arrested in May and charged with taking a substantial bribe from a construction company in exchange for a military housing contract. (AP)



Anva Shashkina crying at the funeral yesterday of her younger sister, Lyudmila, nine, who was among more than 80 people who died in the Irkutsk cargo plane disaster at the weekend.

yesterday, Yana Potanina, were in state care after family breakdowns and were ion when the Antonov watching televis An-124 crashed in a fireball next to the hostel where they lived. Galina

The first impact caught them. They died instantly." Another 140 children were evacuated safely. Some of them laid flowers as their friends were buried in sunshine at a snowbound cemetery. (Renters)

#### Russians 'asked for fresh IMF handout'

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A SENIOR government economist revealed yesterday that Russia held talks with the International Monetary Fund on an emergency package to prevent the collapse of the

economy. Yevgeni Yasin, the Minister without Portfolio, said the discussions focused on new financial support, like that devised to help South Korea out of its economic crisis. In the event the measures had

not been necessary, he said. Last week officials expressed fears about a financial collapse after a run on the rouble. Confidence fell further when the IMF announced that it was withholding payment of this month's \$700 million (£415 million) quarterly instalment of a \$5.6 billion loan to Russia, because of the Government's shortfall in tax collection.

The Government weathered the crisis and confidence among investors returned. This was due partly to President Yeltsin's success in persuading the Communist-dominated State Duma to approve the first reading of next year's budget. The parliament is due to give a second reading on December 18.

stood to be encouraged by Mr Yeltsin's apparent decision not to take any further action against his economic team. Last month he reprimanded Anatoli Chubais, the First Deputy Prime Minister, and stripped him of the additional portfolio of Finance Minister. because of his acceptance of a £60,000 hook advance

Opposition leaders maintained that the advance amounted to a bribe from a bank linked with the publishing company.

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France	(Fft)	1985	61%	1091	<b>57</b> 1	502		
Logembourg	(LFr)	9164	65%	5040	2635	2611		
Netherlands	(DFI)	778	50%	428	224	188		
Spain	(PTS)	75299	26%	41414	21648	17143		
Sweden	(SKr)	5232	14%	2878	1504	1056		
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	49%	45	232	177		
Rest of Europe	(E)	474		261	136	130		
USA (almuali)	(US\$)	1231	R/8	677	354	349		
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## Spain told of plot to kill King

vented a 1985 coup that would have started with the assassination at a parade of King Juan Carlos, his family and the former Prime Minister. Felipe González. El Pals yesterday gave details of the plot to blow up the stand from which the King, Government members and generals would have viewed the parade in La Coruña, north Spain.

The King became the prime target for rebel officers after his intervention proved crucial in quashing a coup attempt in 1981, according to one of the conspirators.

The planned killing was inspired by the 1981 assassination of the Egyptian President Sadat and the killing of Fran-co's Prime Minister, Luis Carrero Blanco, by Eta., the Basque separatist group, in 1973. The plotters planned to dig a tunnel from a nearby building to the stand; enough

explosives would have been placed in the tunnel to kill King Juan Carlos, Queen So-fia, their two daughters, Señor González, Narcis Serra, his Defence Minister, and a dozen army officers.

El Pais said two right-wing army colonels led the plot. The imprisoned leaders of the 1981

Jaime Milans del Bosch and Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero, were told of the plan. During the first coup attempt Lieutenant-Colonel Tejero stormed parliament and Lieutenant-General Milans del Bosch ordered his tanks on to the streets of Valencia. One of the plotters said they

considered calling on an un-

A gun-waving Tejero exhorts MPs in his 1981 coup bid

named lieutenant-general still in active service to lead the dictatorship that would have taken over. The plot was discovered two months before the parade when one of the conspirators, apparently appalled by the prospect of so much bloodshed, told the military intelligence service. Señor González's Socialist Government decided that, rather than arrest the conspirators, it would warn them that their plan had been discovered. We saw no reason to turn

One of the colonels who allegedly led the plot was Ricardo Sáeriz de Ynestrillas, assassinated by Eta in 1986. The other alleged leader was named as Colonel Ignacio Gasca Quintana, 56, who retired last year. There have now been at least three plots to assassinate the King.

them into martyrs for their

cause," a former Socialist min-

ister said.

#### Jobless rise deals new blow to Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE number of German unemployed rose again last month, edging closer to what economists and politicians believe will be a peak of 5 million by the end of winter. That figure, capping months of postwar record highs, would deal a serious blow to the re-election chances of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The pan-German unemployment rate is now 11.8 per cent. About 11,000 Germans joined the dole queue in November, bringing the seasonal-ly adjusted figure to 45 million. Bernhard Jogoda, the Federal Labour Office president, believes there are signs that unemployment is gradually levelling off - better, mainly export-led, growth in the West is beginning to make an impact but still not enough to cancel out the miserable

The construction slump and the end of government jobcreation schemes have pushed up unemployment in the east to 1.47 million. Herr Jagoda's hope is that the west will continue to improve as growth reaches an annual 2.5 per cent by the end of the year; the best hope for the east is that the job market stabilises. There are signs that the bottom is gradually being reached even though we still have to wait for a fundamental improvement," Herr Jagoda said. Yet Herr Jagoda cannot

situation in eastern Germany.

exclude the possibility that the current trend will lead to a February peak of 5 million out of work. In 1997 the winter-end peak was about 4.7 million, breaking all postwar records and doing much to derail public finances and public confidence in the Kohl Government. With some positive results slowly trickling in, the German leader has been able to stem the loss of trust in his economic management skills. But the trend, this time from a much higher base rate of unemployment, may repeat itself this winter.



#### Italian TV converted by the power of religion nium was just round the corner, and

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

WITH ratings for game shows, variety shows and quizzes sliding badly, Italian television executives are turning to a new audience-winner to bring back the viewers — religion.

"Not so much Madonna, more The Madonna," said an executive after Channel 5. a commercial channel, drew a record number of viewers for an evening prime-time drama on the miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary to three Portuguese children in 1917. The visions are celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church because of the "three secrets" the Madonna is said to have confided to the children, involving forecasts of 20th-century wars and the fall of communism in Russia. To the delight of Fabrizio viewing figures with an audience of seven and a half million, a million more than its nearest rival, an "action film" on the state-run channel, RAL

The role of Mary was played by Randi Ingerman, an actress and model who poses nude for calendars and normally appears in revealing outfits on the kind of game show Italians are turning off in droves. "I did not find it difficult to transform myself into the the Virgin Mary." she said. "I do have a spiritual side." RAI hit back with a special broadcast on the Vatican's preparations for the millennium and a documentary on

miracles at Lourdes. The turn towards religion began when a documentary on RAI's second

هكذامن اللجل

Costa, the director, Fatima, broadcast to mark The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, topped the evening's canonised, drew a bigger audience than a raft of blockbuster American films on rival channels. Television executives sat up and took notice. "They have long known that a televised Mass has the same

effect on the ratings as a Cup Final guaranteed to obtain a 30 per cent audience share," observed Panorama magazine. But it said the present glut of Christian themes was "clearly a deliberate marketing ploy". The series culminates in a televised Christmas concert from the Lower Church of the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi. reopened after the earthquakes in September. "Christmas has come early on Italian TV." said Corriere della Sera. Signor Costa said Italians were increasingly conscious that the millen-

"the desire for spirituality is on the increase". Vatican officials agree. pointing out that it already has its own television channel and a Social Communications Unit", which oversees projects. "TV brings religion into people's homes even more effectively than gospellers on the doorstep," an official said.

On Christmas Eve, one of Italy's leading journalists, Enzo Biagio, is presenting The Story of a Child called Jesus, other programmes in the pipe-line include A hundred Kilometres of History: Sacred Texts from the Vatican Archives.

Not all critics are impressed: Corriere della Sera said Fatima's slick production values had made it look like "an advert for sliced white

massacres

babies thrown off balconies

mutilated

pregnant women disembowelled

burned alive

# Write your own bloody headline.

Amnest

Τbe

Chalumeau',

a blowtorth, is routinely used by the

Main picture:

Algerian security forces

to make suspects 'sing'.

Distraught survior of a massacre carried out

at Sidi Rais village by

an armed group.

could touch

you?

International:
working worldwide
for the release of
prisoners of conscience,
fair trials for political
prisoners and an end
to torture, extrajudicial executions,
"disappearances"
and the death penalty.

words — there are no words — to express what this Algerian woman is feeling. In this conflict children are killed in front of parents, people are blowtorched and howl like baopipes, say ordinary folk are caught in horror beyond imagining.

You can do something to stop these things, but knowing yourself as you do, are

Two children, night their parents words, what words

We woke up at the a shotgun. They pushed out into the courtyard

the village of the woman in the picture, and killed about three hundred people.

They spared neither women nor children. The victims died in ways too hideous to describe.

But were we to catalogue each brutal detail, it would still be beyond our power to convey the horror of what was done.

Words can't say it and photographs.

On 27th August this year, a

group of armed men entered Rais,

however gruesome, don't show it.

When words lose power.

It is a filthy conflict in Algeria. Both Government forces and armed groups have committed atrocities.

The Government uses the gangs' atrocities to justify its massive repression of human rights, the armed groups use the repression to justify their atrocities.

The woman from Rais got caught in the middle.

We don't know precisely what loss she suffered, whether she saw her family murdered, her baby dashed to its death, her small daughter disembowelled, her mother's head rolling in the dust.

All these things have happened, if not to this woman, to others just as uninvolved, helpless and anguished. The words on the picture come from the opening paragraph of Amnesty International's latest report on Algeria. We have become used to seeing words like these in our newspapers.

Algerian Shocking headlines no longer touch us. We're not moved, we resent being manipulated. Experience says that you'll read this page, turn over and forget it, because this is how you, like the rest of us, have learned to cope with clamouring ads.

Listen to what the children said.

Two children, sisters of II and I3, spoke about the night their parents were killed.

"We woke up at the noise; some armed men were hitting father with a shotgun. They pushed father into the kitchen and the others took mum out into the courtyard and tied her hands. They cut her throat. The other men called from inside the house and the one who slaughtered mum shouted: "Wait I'm finishing". We pulled mum into the house and closed her eyes and covered her with a blanket, and also covered father; he had also had his throat cut. We cried and screamed."

Reader, wake up. This isn't a game of words. It isn't some clever advertising agency trying to score a 'creative' coup. It's a plea, a big desperate one, for your help.

#### You can make a big difference.

We need you. Even as you are reading this, people are being murdered, tortured, being made to "disappear", thrown in jail without trial.

You could help them. Why won't you?

Is it right to murder, torture, or imprison people for their religion, the colour of their skin or beliefs?

You may say 'no', but unless you stand up for human

Shocking headlines no longer rights, you might as well say 'yes'.

Amnesty International was founded on the idea that ordinary people can make a difference in the world, can help to stop murder, torture and other abuse of human rights. Since our foundation in 1961, we have proved over and over and over that we can help.

#### Amnesty is international.

Do you dislike the idea of western liberals laying down the moral law to the rest of the world?

Good, so do we. Amnesty International is a worldwide organisation with members in just about every country on earth. In some places our members risk their lives to stand up for human rights. And people in that deadly danger are standing up for your human rights, whether or not you choose to recognise the fact.

#### Decades of broken promises.

After the Second World War, the world's nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then every single one of them has at some time broken its promise to defend and not abuse human rights.

Only one voice in the world is strong enough to force politicians to keep their promises. Yours.

But only you can convince yourself that you want to stand up for other people's human rights.

stand up for other people's human rights.

Are you a do-nothing? Or will you make a difference?

Only you know the answer, only you can find the words, only you can sign your name below.

You may be you that be you that ap for human words, only you can sight your hance below.
Yes, it's time I joined Amnesty International. Here's my annual subscription fee:
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## Safe, secure – and satisfying

Sarah Johnson found there were unexpected benefits to giving birth at home. It was relaxed, happy — and no stranger could have whisked her baby away

fice clerk was unhappy. "The baby was born at home?" he repeated. The concept did not seem to fit on the form he was filling in. "Well, the midwives came from Queen Charlotte's," Daniel, my husband. added, to reassure him that this was not a completely amateur job. The clerk cheered up and filled in his form. Ten minutes later a routine phone call had been put through to the hospital and Dan was summoned before the top clerk. "There is no record at Queen Charlone's of this baby," he was told

Dan stuck to his story. "She was born at home." In the very room she has slept in since she born month; into the

heart of her family. Agatha No stranger could have whisked her away like little Karli Hawthorne. At home? Our friends and neighsquelch on bours already sus-

landed

with a

to an

wanted four children — now they had concrete proof. No one expects babies to be born at home -Helga, our midwife, thought-

fully provided us with a hospital wrist tag and cot label so we would not feel deprived. Childbirth is too important to be subject to fashion, but it is. Ten years ago fathers boasted that they had helped their children to be born; now they boast that they were playing football at the time.

The present vogue is to avoid pain at all costs and to embrace technology — "What about your epidural?" said one chap, wonderingly, as if it were as natural a part of giving birth as a vagina. One relative, steeped in Freud, warned that our three

older children would be deeply traumatised by hearing me groaning in labour. And what about the mess?

From the National Health Service point of view, home births are very cheap. As my preparations mounted up. I could see why. We would be using my sheets, my towels, my washing machine - and my electricity if Helga the midwife needed any of the heavy equipment for reviving babies and pacifying mothers. which she lugged gallantly up to my bedroom in the small hours one morning last month. We would be cooking

he junior register of and eating our own food. As I nappy changing table (for examining the newborn in correct hospital-style conditions) and queued in Homebase with a stack of plastic decorators' sheets to protect the carpets, I felt downright patriotic to think of how much I was saving the

> No one should think of a home birth unless they can plan ahead and rely on two or three people for support. Home birth does not rule out pethidine, gas-and-air or TENS, but I have never gone in much for pain relief since a remarkable Alexander Technique teacher and midwife, Ilana Machover, taught me how to make the best of labour

pain (in a nutshell: don't fight the pain — go with it — keep upright - move about). With three my belt, so to speak. I had a good chance of things going right, and if things went wrong old duvet the midwife had the knowledge and

equipment to safe-

the hospital ten minutes away. But my chief reason was that I hate being moved during labour. What other mammal is daft enough to jump into a car and drive for miles with painful contractions? Animals in labour snuggle down into a nest and stay put. Women often say: "As soon as I got to the hospital the contractions stopped. They

guard the baby until I reached

The truth is that the trauma of a car journey hinders the progress of labour. Maybe this does not distress the baby; but maybe it does. In any case, I had had enough of crawling painfully down hospital corridors. Seven years ago, as I dragged a suitcase downstairs to a waiting taxi. I thought: There has to be a better way."

wanted to send me home . . .

This time, I woke at lam with mild contractions and remained in my bedroom until the job was done. No suitcases, no taxi. At 6am Edith, aged five, woke in her little bedroom next door and com-plained that someone was going "Uh, Uh", and it was keeping her awake.

An hour later, her new baby sister, Agatha, landed with a gentle squelch on to an old duvet spread on the floor, four miles from the house where



Childbirth is too important to be subject to fashion, but it is. Ten years ago fathers boasted that they had helped their children to be born; now they boast that they were playing football

mother had given birth to my mother 73 years ago.

A birth-circle involving four generations of women was complete. Agatha's great-grandmother died of puerper-al fever caused by a careless midwife: by having this baby at home, I felt, I could somehow erase that scar on my

elga and her two colleagues cleared up in minutes. Edith and her brothers Tycho (seven) and Leo (three) were allowed in, a joyful little procession bursting through the door. Yes, they had been concerned about the screams coming from my room - but here Mummy was, sitting up in bed, pale but smiling broadly, with a crum-pled little pink baby in her arms. Obviously whatever I survivable.

The telephone rang Times sub-editor asking if it was "a convenient moment" to discuss my last story. The odd thing is, it was convenient. I was tucked up in bed with

Agatha, a delicious breakfast and a sense of pure elation. The awesome simplicity of a home birth was beginning to dawn on us.

For the next three days and nights I slept better than I had for weeks. No hospital bathrooms with their bloodstained floors and erratic hot water supply. No hospital food. I heard no strange babies crying, no constant footsteps in the ward. No large, noisy families partying for hours round the bed next door. No tragic, distant sobbing in the

Pottering round my bedroom on the third day. I thought of the discomforts of coming home after a hospital birth: repacking the suitcase, rushing to the phone, guiltily wrapping flowers in newspaper, wishing I had more loose change, more time, more energy, less luggage, more pairs of arms.

Once home, the house would seem untidy and cold. This time was different. Agatha belonged to the house. and it to her. Instead of snapping at visitors. I welcomed them. The champagne flowed, and little Agatha slipped without a splash into the river of our lives.

References: Sheila Kitzinger: Homebirth, Dorling Kindersley, 1995, ISBN 075130165. Nicky Wesson: Home Birth, Vermilion, 1996, ISBN 009181251. Ilana Machover and Angela and Jonathan Drake: The Alexander Technique Birth Book, Robinson, 1993, ISBN 1854871862

## Labouring under a disadvantage

mid all the uproar about security at maternity hospitals following the abduction of baby Karli Hawthorne from her sleeping mother's bed-side in Basildon General, one question remains to be asked. Why was a woman who was exhausted and under sedation after a major operation, a Caesarean section, left to look after her baby?

Details of policy differ from one hospital to another, but my experience, and that of many of the women I have interviewed, suggests that these days it is common practice to leave the new mother to "get on with it" almost regardless of

After my Caesarean. I was completely disoriented and could think only about sleep," one typical new mother told me. "After nine months of getting excited about the baby arriving, when it finally happened I could not even raise the energy to look at him properly.
"He kept crying and eventually, out of

desperation, I asked a nurse to look after him for an hour or two while I caught up on some sleep

You would have thought that I was deserting my child the way some of the staff responded. They were all very nice and willing to help, but only within their policy guidelines, not to the extent of giving me a break by actually looking after the baby."

I delivered my baby, Stella, after at least 48 hours without sleep, and God knows how many drugs. I was in no fit state to look after myself, let alone a new

But left alone I was, while Dad was chased off home, to return only during visiting hours. At the time of baby Karli's abduction (12.50am), her father had apparently gone to telephone friends and relations to give them the good news of the birth. He would have been very lucky to get much of a look in if he tried to get

New mothers are too exhausted to be left alone with their babies, says Virginia Hume

back to spend time with his new family at that time of night.

The cosy Nineties name for the practice of leaving new mothers alone with their abies is "rooming in". There are two reasons why it is so popular with the medical authorities. First, you have to "bond" with your

baby. This may take months (it takes a long time to get to know a person), but in the medical imagination it really all happens magically within the first few hours of birth, and mother and baby must be left alone for the spell to work.

The other reason is that breastfeeding is de rigueur today. And as there are no longer enough staff to bring your baby to you when he is hungry, he must be constantly by your side.

hen these two campaigns took hold, hospital managers strapped for cash must have breathed a sigh of relief. No need to staff the nursery properly any more, not when baby needs his mother so much.

As one popular baby care manual puts it: "Rooming in can be ideal ... since it doesn't leave you dependent on the nursery staff ... and ensures that no one will sneak a bottle into the infant."

When my mother gave birth to me in the late Fifties, childbirth was rightly Yes, those hospitals were horrid haby factories, without a breastfeeding coun-sellor or birthing partner in sight. but

they did get something right.
They knew that childbirth was not called labour for nothing. Babies were taken off to the nursery to be cared for by nurses, and mums got ten days' rest before they were considered sufficiently recuperated to look after a newborn without help. This sounds like nirvana to many women giving birth in hospital

These days you are expected to be alert and on duty minutes after the big event. You are allowed to fall asleep, but you are expected to wake up again (as I was) half an hour later, then two hours later, then an hour after that and so on — in fact any time the baby cries for the foreseeable

Very soon you cannot see farther than the next hour of sleep. We may not have thrown the baby out with the bathwater when we did away with those baby farms, but we sure as hell sent the mother down the plughole.

It is only a short step from saying that everything is the mother's responsibility to saying that everything is her fault. No surprise, then, to find that within hours of Karli's safe return, a Sunday tabloid was quoting the baby's grandfather accusing Denise Hawthorne of not being a good enough mother.

The suggestion that the maternity care provided for mothers might not be good enough did not get a mention.

In our anxious age, the upshot of the baby Karli affair will be that many more women going into hospital to have babies will be terrified that somebody might come into their room in the middle of the night and take their newborn away from them. Meanwhile, a lot of exhausted women coming out of the maternity ward will be wishing that a midwife could have

JUST WHEN THE DAYS ARE GROWING SHORTER, HARRODS MAKES THEM LONGER.



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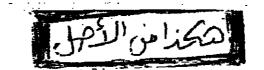
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ARTS It's now-or-never day for Lord Rogers's sensational 'wave' glass roof for London's South Bank Centre. Marcus Binney investigates Pages 36-38









# Why I side with the mob over Hindlev

n theory, it is a perfectly respectable argument. Why shouldn't Myra Hindley be freed? As her lawyers point out, she's now served 31 years and no one is seriously suggesting that, if released, she would commit any further crimes: justice is not served, it is concluded, by continuing to refuse her parole.

But if there's a good argu-ment why she should be freed, it's hard to think of any reason. It is hard, even, to imagine why anyone should want to try to think of one. As Hindley's barrister, Edward Fitzgerald, QC, immensely. He is a good man, as well as a clever one, and this is a rarity among his profession. Many of those who take up controversial causes do so because they want to bludgeon us with the unforeseen brilliance of their argument, to make their name, go on the telly; I would swear that none of this is what motivates Fitzgerald here. Simply, he believes in justice and in doing the right

I am not such a good person, and am happy enough to do the wrong thing if it seems right to me. Every principle of justice that I believe in is denied by denying Hindley parole, and yet I would still deny it her. It may be intellectually flabby and morally primitive to cleave to some instinct for natural justice rather than listen to the unemotional rationales of the lawyers, but there are worse blood-hunger of the public and keeping Hindley in jail is an easy way of doing that.

things to be, in either case. Many of those who have sought to defend Hindley say that there is an inherent sexism in the attacks against her. No one, they point out, cares as much about Ian Brady. Well, that's true. (Though it's not just her sex in part, the public feel that at least he has had the decency to go mad; her coldly reckoning, petulant and insistent

things, chills.) Some are criti-

cal of the fact that she's been

turned into some symbol of

evil, no longer considered a

person with the rights of the

rest of us, a person who's

served time and therefore

deserves to be forgiven. Unde-

niable also. Others complain

that she has been the victim of

reactionary populism: politi-

cians want to satisfy the

edly to put her case, to apologise for what she'd done and explain why she no longer needed to be punished, sanity is what, among other the best she could do was to say that Myra Hindley of the Moors Murders was not Myra Hindly she was today. Except she didn't quite manage to say what she'd done. It was just as if "something" had happened, but it wouldn't have been nice to mention what that something was. More: it was as if the rest of

us were being indelicate for forcing her attention back to it. Forget about the past being a different country: for her the past is a different person - so how can she, the person she is now, be held accountable? Does this sound like some-

allegations are correct? How

great, really, is the assault on justice, real justice?

good witness for her own defence. She whines. She

wheedles. She can't see what

any of us are getting at. When

she wrote an article, purport-

And frankly, she is not a

one who has paid her debt to society? I grant the idea of paying a debt to society is a quaint one, and in most cases downright archaic. But in hers it is different, in hers, the phrase fits. Society really does condemn her; the public truly finds her unacceptable. On her side, she doesn't want to be forgiven, she wants to be

In this, I would prefer to ally myself to the vulgar mob than to the best legal minds:



The two fat ladies Clarissa Dickson Wright, left, and Jennifer Paterson: oblivious to the fear of fat

#### A little of what you fancy does you good

WHAT I want to know is how much money did the Two Fat Ladies pay the Consumers' Association? You couldn't huy publicity this good. A bunch of dried-up puritans announce that your food is wicked and sinful and will lead us into bad ways. Delia Smith. who also comes in for criticism, is probably less pleased at the slur. After all, even if she isn't quite the nation's namy, she is, we've always been led to believe, the calm voice of safety: never excessive, a person to trust.

Not that Heulth Which? seems to have much time for anyone, much less any of their food. The poor things seem driven by such an overriding fear of fat that they have lost the ability to see anything in proportion. They see a recipe listing a couple of fluid ounces of double cream and instantly they fear we will take to glugging the stuff. liberally. The magazine preaches balance, but seems unable to maintain its own. The simple fact is this eating double

cream, butter, or any other current dietetic demon, doesn't in itself make you unhealthy, it depends on how much you eat of it. And frankly, better a tablespoonful of double cream every other day than a cupful of "low fat dairy product" seven days a week. Though now we are forbidden to eat meat on the bone for no good reason, a bit of thin-lipped dreariness about unhealthy eating practices is as nothing. And at least it constitutes debate, which is more than you can say about the Jack Cunningham fiasco. Anyway, the case against animal fats is overstated. What the anti-meat brigade tends to overlook is that it is not the presence of meat in the diet that causes neart disease and cancer, but the absence of fruit and veg. It's certainly true that most of those who eat half a pound of meat a day are the sort who think anything leafy is for wimps and will eat no fruit except for the occasional banana.

But for the rest of us, excess is fine. I can't belp feeling, as long as it's excess all round.

#### Mammon message

NOW that we have become a nation of addictive shoppers. I notice that no one complains about the commercialisation of Christmas any more. And I, for any number of reasons, am not about to start. But I cannot leave the subject alone, either. Not this year. Not when George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has chosen to preach a sermon from the pulpit of Asda. His recorded seasonal pieties will be piped into stores across the country, with shoppers being handed orders of service and hymn

It certainly gives a rather different gloss on the idea of the supermarket aisle.

## 'I cry for wasted lives and the lost years'

through the bush last month Britain when she was bitten by a snake or a scorpion — she doesn't know which - and

nearly died. Bose had been driving for more than a day when she stopped at a border control and tried to find a bathroom. "But I had to use a clearing in the grass and almost immediately felt myself being bitten. Then I experienced this intense heat rise through my body and ten minutes later I lost consciousness." She was rushed to hospital in Togo and put on an anti-venom serum drip, even though the doctor did not know what had bitten her. "Luckily, he gave me the strongest possible dose. With-

out it I would have died." For Bose, 33, the incident was just the latest in a continuing nightmare that began in May 1995. Her husband, George Mbah, senior assistant editor at Tell, a weekly news magazine, left for work as usual that day, kissing his wife and baby daughter goodbye, but never returned. She learned later that several military officers had visited the Tell office that evening and. after making inquiries about an article in a sister publica-tion called Dateline, had forced Mbah out of the build-

ing and into in a waiting Jeep. A few months later, he was one of four journalists tried by a secret special military tribunal. convicted of being "an accessory after the fact of treason" and sentenced to life strain of the last few years is

Bose Mbah's husband is in a Nigerian jail, sentenced to 15 years for his writing. Now, she, too, is a security risk. Anne Sebba reports

outcry this was later commuted to 15 years. Mbah's family and friends vigorously deny such a charge and Amnesty International describes Mbah as a prisoner of conscience who has neither used nor advocated violence but is imprisoned solely because of his work as a journalist. Since then, the 37-year-old writer has been denied access to lawyers and his health has

Tor Bose, a freelance editor, researcher and columnist, life was hard from the day her husband was taken away. She had a twomonth-old daughter to care for. Valerie, and she found work "just evaporated" once people knew she was the wife of a political prisoner. "I'm termed a security risk myself. If it wasn't that I had an enlightened and supportive family, I couldn't manage."

Bose Mbah, a diplomar's daughter, was educated partly in the UK and 13 other countries but returned home in between her father's postings. She has spent the past ten years in Nigeria, gaining two masters degrees, one in political science and international relations, the other in international law and diplo-macy. She is articulate, describes herself as "naturally friendly and extrovers . . I'm a firm believer in myself", and has a winning smile. But the

lot and smokes a lot. "These days, I'm the breadwinner," she explained. After her husband's arrest, she moved in with her parents. During her trip to Britain, organised and sponsored by the human rights organisation Article 19, so that she could lobby the

imprisonment. After a world apparent. She rubs her eyes a Biu prison in Borno state, told me that whenever I come That is about as far away from his family as he can get. it's a form of psychological torture, removing him from his support system. Biu is alien terrain for George, a different climate and culture where he is viewed almost as a foreigner and with hostility."



Bose Mbah cried when she saw her husband's appearance

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Edinburgh in October, her parents

looked after Valerie.

Bose is exhausted from telling people, who find it hard to comprehend, what has happened to her husband and her life, For months she did not know where her husband was being held. Then in April last year, she finally received per-mission from the Chief Superintendent of Prisons to visit George, who was being held in

Although Bose is allowed to see her husband once a month, it takes her a day and a half travelling each way, and costs roughly six months' salary. She does not have the resources. As the journey is complicated and part of it involves going through an area prone to armed robberies, she cannot take their child. "George has only spent two

months with her since she was "Also, the head of the prison

> quoting reference TMD703

must pass through the Maiduguri office for clearance. I have to sign in to say I'm on my way." Once she gets to Biu, there is no guarantee that she will be allowed to see her husband. "If the Superintendent of Prisons is not there I cannot see my husband. One time I was there I had to wait an extra day because he was

not around.

At her first visit, Bose was given a set of rules on what she could or could not say. This included a demand that she must not cry or the meeting would be stopped. But when her husband appeared, Bose was so shocked by his appearance, "of course I cried, I'm only human. And they threatened to stop the meeting but didn't. He was so thin; I felt his ribs sticking out when I hugged him. He can't eat prison food. His skin was scaly and ashen. His eyes are dim and he has film over one." Bose is particularly con-

cerned about his sight. He was in a car accident while covering the last elections in Nigeria and a surgical wound on his right eyelid is infected.

There is a prison doctor who has seen him but he told me that he cannot give him any drugs for this."

Bose last saw her husband three months ago, but says it is impossible to talk about his medical condition during their 30-minute meeting. "We're in a small room with eight other people, mostly prison officials and police, who listen to contains nothing except a mat-everything. They interrupt tress. I believe he is given a just wanted to touch my calf. He said to me 'It's not easy is it?, and we both pretended to

To what extent it's not easy, Bose can only make a wellinformed guess. "I know he is kept in solitary and I have seen the hut where he comes from. He is allowed no associations. he can't mix with any of the other prisoners. His cell is damp and he shares it with mosquitoes, cockmaches and other insects, but otherwise it

and give me rules about what I blanket as it gets cold at night, can say or do. We sit side by side and can't possibly be intimate. Once George tried to but there is not even a bucket. When there is a 'friendfy' guard, he's allowed to be taken bend down, pretending to pick to the toilet. That's why you something up but really he need money. And I have to give money to the prison authorities to supplement his diet otherwise he li die." rhaps the worst depri-

vation of all for a writer, he has no books other than the Bible and the Koran. no paper, pens, writing material of any sort, nor a table. What of the uncertain future? Bose insists she still believes in the general goodness of people and a better,

democratic Nigeria. She

a crucial role to play in the democratisation process in Nigeria. But when the worst has happened you look at life differently, day by day." Until her recent trip, Bose had rarely cried. "But I cried on this trip. I cried for the wasted lives of our future leaders and the lost years and for the creative loss of the country and for humanity and I cried for our daughter. What does she think? She doesn't even know what the word Daddy means. That's a loss that can never ever be replaced."

doctorate in feminist theory;

she believes that women have

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◆ Anne Sebba is a member of the Writers in Prison Committee of English PEN



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## Trapped in the cage of state aid

Richard Burge contrasts the zoo's

self-help culture with our museums

s any American politi-cian will tell you, it takes something pretty extraordinary to stop Newt Gingrich in his tracks. But that is what happened at Speaker of the House of Representatives is well known for his enthusiasm for zoos. We toured the zoo for nearly three hours. Then, in a special room nies of South Pacific snails more than 30 species rescued from extinction and now being reintroduced into the wild -he asked: "How much of your revenue is made up by the Government grant?" The answer is none. The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) — despite all its problems of the past - now thrives without a massive and non-accountable grant dispensed by the Gov-

Last week, the chief executives of the great institutions of Britain which are locked into the benefit culture of Government funding met with the manager of their Job Centre. the Secretary of State for Culture. Chris Smith did not invite ZSL. I take that as a compliment. More than one and a half million people pay an economic price to walk through the gates of

our two zoos (London and Whipsnade) every year. Add to that the 50,000 people who belong to our mem-Our zoos are in the top bracket of visitor numbers but do not take a penny in

Government grant aid. Perhaps the lack of an invitation was to avoid discouraging those who were there. It is the provision of these

large grant's which deadens our great institutions and ultimately may make them elitist and irrelevant - serving the needs of the insiders and not the taxpayers who keep them alive, year in year out. We must remember that even those which charge for admission are still receiving recurrent Government grants, amounting to at least two not a question of the size of recurrent grants - we should ask if they should be dispensed

ZSL does receive some help

from the taxpayer. We compete for scientific grants from the research councils, and, like university departments, receive support for our research from the Higher Education Funding Council. We also receive contracts and grants from English Nature towards the cost of our work on native wildlife — most monitoring the spread of disease in endangered animals -- but the cost of that work is five times larger than the grants we receive. We are working in Nepal and Kenya on wildlife veterinary projects; half the cost is borne by the Overseas Development Department, the rest we raise. It is a transparent relationship reflecting both our mission and Government

objectives. It is a partnership. It is precisely this relationship — Government contributing towards the cost of particular projects or activity — which should be the foundation of all Government fund-ing for cultural institutions. The museums, galleries and theatres have clear income streams from visitors. There is no reason why they should not be able to plan to dispense completely with the Government grant within ten years, and revert to seeking funding for individual projects (you know the type: ones with a beginning, middle and end, and at a fixed price).

If the funding is not achieved, then the project does not happen. The skill comes in persuading the Government, like any supporter, to part with its money because you touch the chord which reflects its interests and objectives. And the same goes for the museums. Government help should not be the majority payment into a single, fixed-cost budget. Where is the incentive in that for trustees and management? It is a situation which simply creates a culture of spending money and not earning it. The dead hand of Government lies heavily — creating a depen-dency which takes you every vear further from the people

you are meant to serve.

make our

elitist and

irrelevant

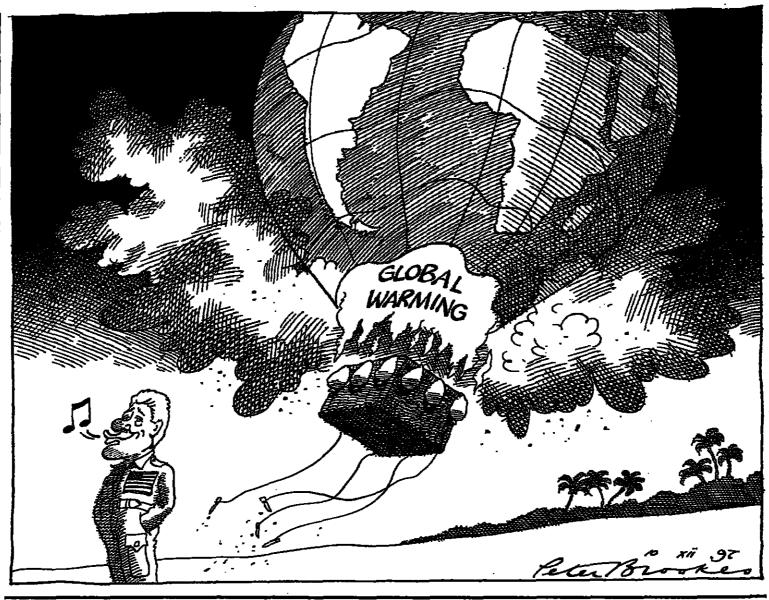
This will open Government funding for a much wider range of institutions whose input to our national life is just Large grants as great. We are still awaiting a Millennium Commission institutions decision on our National Aquarium project (half funded by the Lottery, half

by a commercial bond issue — and with no public funds required at all for its operation), but in our proposal we committed ourselves to giving every child in Newham a free school visit every year. I would love to ask Chris Smith for a three-year contract to provide every child in London with a free visit to London Zoo - and I am sure that my colleagues in Chester and Edinburgh would do the same. But there is no point in bothering him while the coffers are emptied. Getting rid of the recurrent block grants to the few will enable the many to

Yes, free entry will have to go - but it isn't that common. and entry to the special exhibitions can empty your pocket as quickly as a full commercial rate. We will all have to use information technology and a bit of imaginative thinking to ensure that those who can pay do; and those who genuinely cannot afford the headline prices are not turned away.

The zoo will continue to do its work - 50 full-time scientists working at the cutting edge of genetics and ecology in more than 20 countries another 50 staff based full time overseas on projects directly contributing to the survival of habitats and species. We have proved that permanent indebtedness is not essential to serve the public good. It is time for Government to break the mould and to start participating in success. And to insist on the same achievements from the institutions that it

The author is Director General of the Zoological Society of



## Here's to you, Mr R

Politics and the press need buccaneers such as the Paymaster General

et me make one thing clear. I am not related to the Paymaster-General, Geoffrey Robinson. I am not his uncle, neice, brother-in-law or second cousin once removed. Legal action will ensue should the press suggest otherwise. So anything I say in Mr Robinson's defence is based on known facts. His explanation for his exotic and lucrative finances seems wholly plausible and beyond re-Labour used to argue that able persons should not be denied political

advancement by virtue of poverty. Quite so. It now argues that nor should advancement be denied by virtue of wealth. Quite so again. I am with Mr Robinson. Besides, he is a Blair courtier with lots of money, a good job, a well-provided family and houses in Tuscany and France. In years to come, he may need all the help I can give him.

So much for the defence. Now for the prosecution. The press is currently anguished. For more than a year it has been exploited by Labour's apparatchiks. It drooled over Mr Blair's rise to power, was flattered, bamboozled, woven and spun. It tore told appropriate whoppers about Mr Blair's "landslide" popular support last May.

Each week, nay each day, the press is now summoned to glorify some Government initiative to the world. Laws, units. White Papers and task forces bubble up from the hot springs of Downing Street. Editors cannot run a decent sleaze story but Peter Mandelson wipes it off the front page by announcing another step down the path to paradise. Good news will not lie down. This is professionally debilitating. As a policeman's life is dull without crime, and a soldier's dull without war, so a newspaper is miserable when ministers never slip on banana skins.

Suddenly along comes Mr Robinson. On stage lurches a millionaire MP who, like Bacchus, has been popping sun-dried tomatoes and wind-dried bressaiola into the mouth of the future Prime Minister as he lies by a Chiantishire pool. The millionaire emerges from Opposition obscurity to a post at the heart of government. He accepts office as Paymaster General, yet does not take a salary. Mr Pepys was always suspicious of officials who did not

take a salary. Soon we discover that the new

Paymaster has an intimate knowledge of venues that once brought tears to the eyes of financial journalists, of Guernsey, Jersey and Caribbean islands of impeccable sand and secrecy, with names like Antilles. Leewards, Caymans and Bermudas. Reporters in these far-flung outposts have been sending their children hungry to school ever since the fall of

the Tories. They are now back to work, with tales of blind trusts and discretionary companies, of swaps, switches, sales and transfers. Uncle Benjy and Aunt Mavis, brother Esau. sister Prue, and cousins umpteen times removed have their names in

brass on Bermudan doorposts. And joy of joys, there is a mysterious Frenchwoman, benefactress of our hero. Her name is Madame Bourgeois. joking? Surely she is not one of the Islington

Bourgeoises? Nor was this all. The Paymaster is active. He soon steps forward to deprive the humble working man of tax relief on his Peps and Tessas. New Labour voters must eke out their savings in suburban Sedgefield while the swish Family Robinson wanders the beaches of the Caribbean with hardly a P60 to its name. Next the Paymaster masterminds a windfall levy on fat-cat utilities. He grabs £6 a week from the mouths of children of lone mothers, takes the very rusk from between their gums. He is said to be the financial brains behind Mr Blair's new Social Exclusion Unit to which, we understand, his depart-

ment is not contributing a penny. This Paymaster is at the cutting edge of the new caring but fiscally responsible Blairism. He is unbending with public finances. No loophole will escape his scrutiny. Yet he stands in the spotlight, quivering, tonguetied and vulnerable. We watch the spin-doctors fuss round him. They spray him with Blair Protection Factor 26. M'learned friends are summoned to write the requisite judgments. M'cringeing editors are

telephoned.

I suppose the press could have done what it was told. It could have left Mr Robinson alone with his reasonable explanation. The salivating Tories could have been told to shut up, on the grounds that Tory sleaze is not yet a "spent conviction".
But to no avail. The modern journalist is only human. Under the Tories he was accustomed to a Robinson story once a week. It became an addiction. Mr Robinson is manna from Heaven. He may, inadvertently and with no thought for the press, have done nothing wrong. That difficulty can be overcome. Any

politician can be accused of hypocrisy. Mr Robinson stands proxy for Labour hypocrisy. Roasting time is overdue. The press must have its roast. There are few lessons for the Gov-

from the Robinson affair. The press will have its day. We know it is always best to be open from the start, and always best to play safe in giving jobs to friends with a colourful past. We know too that any rich man finds it hard to pass through the eye of a political needle. There is too much envy in the land. Mr Robinson, like his old partner Mr Maxwell, is the sort of buccaneer that makes the world go round. Some turn it clockwise, some anticlockwise. Since politicians are charged with the guardianship of other people's money, they are naturally subject to stringent tests of probity. When they are also charged with taxing that money, their own taxes must be proof not just against the Revenue's finest but against Fleet Street's fiercest.

Labour has long benefited from that ferocity. The boot is on the other foot. These skirmishes are part of a necessary war, between the masters of government and their monitors. Few would go as far as Jefferson. "If it were left to me," he wrote, "to decide if we should have a Government without newspapers or newspapers without a Government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." Yet the hounding of ministers by newspa-pers is the best continuous deterrent

to corruption yet devised by democra-cy. It is a modern version of running the gauntlet, flogging the regiment and decimation. Like all exemplary punishments it is usually unfair.

Can Mr Blair's Government take the punishment without flinching?
Nothing so debilitated the Major administration as its susceptibility to media attack. One minister after another fell to the Fleet Street axe. seldom because he or she was not up to the job. Downing Street evolved a ritual of self-humiliation. A minister would be caught in the glare of the press. A fulsome statement of support would be rushed from the Prime Minister. There would be more glare. Downing Street would hesitate, crumple and capitulate. Embattled ministers would dread the message, Downing Street on the line, offering

100 per cent backing". The poison arrow had already left the bow.

Already Mr. Blair has had to defend the public reputations of Harriet Harman, Robin Cook, Tessa Jowell, Tony Banks and Lord Simon. Not one has had to resign. He is fulsomely backing Mr Robinson. He may be ruthless towards those who disagree with Cabinet policy. But he those he has chosen as his team. For an administration that in other respects seems obsessed with media presentation, this is impressive.

abinet discipline should come from within, not without. The Prime Minister should make the rules and enforce them. The press can say what it likes, up to the limits of the law. It can be rude, unfair, partial and mischievous. A wounded buck can be separated from the herd, hounded to the ground and mauled. That is how the press works. But the herd can gather round to protect its own. Mr Blair's herd seems able to do this.

We might disagree with the exemption of car racing from the tobacco ban. We might disagree on singlemothers allowances, on rate capping, on Peps and on the Social Exclusion Unit gimmick. But a Government that refuses to be bullied by the press is inherently a strong Government. Its strategy is not spun of headlines and editorials. Its responses are not crippled by daily attention to how each incident of administration will run on the evening news, or which soundbite went down well with the focus groups. Its mind is likely to be its own.

#### Alan Coren



M Stay on the qui vive for a soi-disant hypnotherapist manqué

anny as you are in the ways of this world, you will, I know, be neither surprised to hear that I receive, in an average week, some two dozen calling cards, nor envious of the giddy social whirl this information might appear to bespeak; because you receive them, too. They are not delivered on monogrammed silver salvers by periwigged flunkies inviting us to a spot of dinner at Lady Molly's or a hand of bezique with the Earl of Edgware, they are poked through our letter-boxes, often in threes, by stubbled derelicts in shell-suits inviting us to a spot of vindaloo at the Moti Mahal or a hand of cowboy down our

And while these missives vary broadly in professional quality - ranging from flimsy Roneoed offers of lanscape gardnin. through glossy triptych endorsements by smirking former ITN newsreaders of personal finance schemes which have brought early retirement aboard their own Caribbean sloops, to embossed pasteboard undertakings that every individually architect-designed kitchen car-ries with it a hand-written 200year guarantee from the Filipino Secretary of State for Fitted Cupboards - all exude that same acrid pong of iffiness which alerts the more circumspect among us to reach for our

And, beyond any question, the

iffiest of all are the invitations to alternative therapies. These do not merely pong, they quack, and while I may be unqualified to take issue with the Prince of Wales over how much good what he is graciously pleased to call complementary medicine might do to the nation's sick, I have to say that his recent enthusiastic endorsement of it has done no good at all to the nation's mats. Of late, I have noted a sudden exponential surge in invitations from countless crackpots manifestly fired by Royalist zeal who insist that they alone are in a position to triumph where conventional means have failed, and that should I ever find myself feeling a bit - if I will forgive the technical jargon - under the weather, then my only course would be to ring for an immediate appointment at the worldrenowned Kilburn Karavan Klinic, conveniently parked behind Burger King, where their highly trained international staff will, following the thorough diagnosis of a rooster's entrails and a full body-scan via tuning-fork techniques discovered by the ancient Aztecs, bang aromatic nails into my flesh, wire my head up to their unique Electromagnetron, flush me through with a foaming mixture of Dead Sea water and Ariel Automatic, hang me from a peg invested with miraculous healing properties by the spirit guide of a much-loved member of the Monagasque Royal Family, and send me skipping back into the world in pristine fettle. If, on the other hand, I am too infirm to travel, the Klinic would be only too pleased to drive round to my place and do it, subject of course to petrol-money up front.

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ow, though all these will as I say, instantly be binned by the shrewd majority, there may yet lurk among my readership a desperate few suffering from ailments which have hitherto defeated conventional doctors, who may therefore be prey to such charlatans, and it is to them that today's column is principally addressed. For I have this week received not one but two invitations from soidisant healers against whom the more gullible must especially be warned, in that both claim not only to be hypnotherapists, but also to offer a domiciliary ser-

vice. Yes, they will come round to your premises, and put you to sleep. Might we not, after the briefest reflection, conclude this to be the iffiest invitation of all? Might it not only pong and quack but also set clanging a very carillon of alarm bells? Because the unique concern here, surely, is not that hypnotism doesn't work, but that, unlike all those other catchpenny procedures, it does. Which is to say that there is undoubtedly a slim chance that you could indeed be put into a trance and awake an hour later to find your aches and pains gone. Which is also to say, to those of us canny in the ways of this world, that there is an even fatter chance that you could be put into a trance and awake an hour later to find your hypnotherapist and

## Garden weed

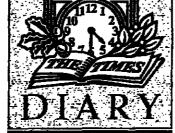
SIR ROY STRONG, the flamboyant art historian, has stalked out of The Sunday Telegraph, for whom he was writing a gardening column, because the newspaper's editor, Dominic Lawson, wanted something terribly "suburban". His slot has been replaced by a green-fingered sort who chronicles the delights of growing brussels sprouts on her allorment. Sir Roy is the latest silver-penned writer to leave the journal since Dominic's arrival in 1995. Sir Roy began his column in the paper's

magazine last May and quickly found a metaphysical significance in wysteria lost on previous writers. He rummaged across fields of science, architecture, literature, painting and, of course, embroidery. "When my copy ended up on the page, it appeared to have gone through a thresher and read like Noddy prose," Sir Roy tells me. They seemed to want me to write about suburban patches and answer readers' questions about growing rhubarb or getting mistletoe to sprout in your trees." This was too much for Sir Roy, author of five books on garden design and a long-term contributor to Country Life. His exasperation follows the departures of such Sunday Telegraph characters as Beryl Gold-smith, once Lord Tebbit's thoughtful typist, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, Kenneth Rose, the respected royal historian, and the Duchess of Devonshire. Dominic suggests that his policy of bringing



in new writers has been successful and revels in his resident gardener, Elspeth Thompson, turting out Sir Roy. "She was a bit squeezed," he says. Allotment aficionados can now crack open the Baby Bio.

■ TONY BLAIR has developed the most exacting make-up habits. Monday found him being "touched up" for an interview on Channel 4 with the newsreader Jon Snow. "He wouldn't let them apply the Chinese yellow foundation,"



says Snow. "He didn't think it

#### Study leave

STIFF gins are being gulped at University College, Oxford, where Sir Robin Butler is about to slip into the Master's chair. Awkwardly for the college's forthright do-mestic bursar, Elizabeth Crawford, the Cabinet Secretary's son had a challenging time as one of her charges — and has been telling

Daddy about his varsity days. Andrew Butler went up in 1987, and swiftly ran into Ms Crawford. Contemporaries recall an exchange of views about college rooms. Since then she has not endeared herself to squirts there by supporting college rent rises. Now some quad dwellers hope that Sir Robin's brisk Whitehall manner

will signal the prompt retirement of Crawford. Sir Robin, who was one of the college's Bright Young Things nearly 40 years ago, follows in the wobbly footsteps of Professor John Alberry, who resigned after a few ill-advised, after-dinner remarks to female members of the college boat club.

#### Fag end

THE burden of being a Blair babe is clearly begining to tell on Claire Ward MP, who at 25 represents the metropolitain blades of Watford. The other day found her in the divi-





sion lobby in support of Michael Foster's foxhunting Bill. Some of her more senior colleagues, perhaps fearing the flak, lit up. Bad move. The sensitive convent-educated Ward ordered the MPs to stub out their cigarettes. "She was screeching. Who does she think she is?" says one. She denies using undue force. "It was heaving and extremely hot and they had the bloody cheek to blow smoke all over us. It was done in a lighthearted manner but people do have to be considerate."

◆ LORD WYATT was an extraordinary monument to survival. He was also a great tease. I remember a hapless Frenchman once asking him to spell his name. Wyatt's re-sponse? "Waterloo, Ypres, Agin-court, Trafalgar, Trafalgar."

#### Cat's tales

IMMORTALITY is assured for Humphrey, the ailing Downing Street cat, who is to be chronicled in a glossy picture-book by the delightful Sheila Gunn, former aide to John Major. A Car's Eye View of Number 10 follows the rise from humble suburban alley cat, the fight against snobbery and finally defeat by the Blairs, consigning him to gloomy retirement back in the suburbs. "The book won't be

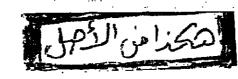


Moggie and biographer party political," the author insists,

despite admitting it was she who first suggested Cherie did not like the cat. "Aithough I might mention that Humphrey's life has been far from happy since the Blairs moved in. He's a Thatcherite - he makes his own way." Importantly, she will dispel claims that Humphrey was Major's closest ally. They accepted each other's right to be there," says Gunn, "but there wasn't much small talk."

 Those who accuse my old friend the Lord Chancellor of folie de grandeur are being unfair. He is not the first Woolsack-warmer to appoint a special adviser - his hero, Cardinal Wolsey, hired that inveterate intriguer Thomas Cromwell as his "agent and secretary".

JASPER GERARD





#### **BUILDING ON BEVAN**

The NHS White Paper is imaginative, but may not be enough

The National Health Service may once have been the envy of the world but it is no longer. Although healthcare consumes only some 6 per cent of the United Kingdom's GDP, a remarkably low figure for an advanced nation, the weight of expectations from an ageing population has placed strain on a creaking system. The last Government's reforms, most notably the establishment of GP fundholding, brought gains in efficiency. Although they emphasised existing inequalities by allowing patients in fundholding practices to demand superior care, they also forced consultants to improve the way they operated in manner which benefited all patients. The internal market has not. however, proved to be a panacea. Initially it attracted envious eyes; but weaknesses in its operation have tempered the enthusiasm of even some early cheerleaders.

No. of the Control of

Public attachment to the founding principles of the NHS remains strong but the growing sense that Bevan's vision needs further renovation informs the Government's White Paper, The New NHS, published yesterday. Its authors hope that the template for reform that it advances, an attempt to move beyond competition without returning to a crude command and control system, will attract interest from other nations grappling with the need to build a modern health care system.

While the White Paper shies away from the radical leaps that some health-care thinkers advocate, it is not a step backwards. The White Paper is guided by the principles of empowering professionals, encouraging innovation, better informing the public. holding institutions to account through publication of standards and holding a central "hit squad" in reserve to address conspicuous failure. Those are principles which inform the Government's education reforms and they promise an improvement in the fair delivery of health care.

Like a Christmas tree, the White Paper is festooned with eye-catching gifts and an especially prominent role for angels. The prospect of on-line access for every GP, the new powers granted to nurses and the promise of a 24-hour helpline manned by them to offer instant advice are all headlinegrabbing innovations, and no less worthwhile for that. It is, however, the underlying structure which is most important; while it may not prove evergreen it is at least sturdy.

The grouping together of GP practices into commissioning bodies may, depending on the vantage point of the partisan, look like the end of fundholding or its extension. But to judge any reform on its fidelity to one means of competition rather than its effectiveness in advancing the end of better care is conservative in the worst sense of the word.

Given the relatively limited potential fundholders have always had to shop around, GPs should welcome the establishment of superior national benchmarks on costs and standards to make local failings more transparent. GPs will also appreciate the creation of a new watchdog body, the Commission for Health Improvement. The benchmarks and the commission create a mechanism to "name and shame" as well as nudge towards better practice those hospitals which fail to learn from others.

The White Paper does not tackle all the potential failings which can afflict a tax-funded monopoly system. Proposals to modernise the NHS which considered how stakeholder insurance systems might work in healthcare as they can in pensions could have forced voters to consider more directly what they can realistically expect for 6 per cent of GDP. The Government believes that its reforms forestall the need for a more radical examination of funding, and they certainly go with the grain of public sentiment. But this White Paper, although admirable and imaginative, will not be the final word.

#### **HOME ALONE**

#### Harman's proposals are well-intentioned but confused

How parliamentary times have changed. A year ago, a small rebellion could have brought the Government down. Now the new administration has been in power for six months and faces its first parliamentary test only today. Even the result is a foregone conclusion, thanks to Labour's huge majority and the Tories' intention to vote with it.

Any rebellion will nonetheless be significant for what it says about the effectiveness of Labour's disciplinary machine, and the willingness of MPs to go along with the more distasteful choices that the Government has taken upon itself to make. What it will not necessarily show, however, is that social security ministers have won their

argument on merit. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, believes that lone mothers should. wherever possible, work rather than stay on benefit. To this end, her officers will be writing to all lone parents with school-aged children inviting them to an interview where job and childcare advice will be given. There is no compulsion involved, however, and the majority of parents contacted so far have not even taken up the offer of an interview. At the same time, she is now implementing the Conservatives' policy of abolishing, for all

new claimants, the premium on child benefit

that lone parents win, in order to bring them

into line with married couples. Both these policies have merit. A recent study of lone mothers by the Policy Studies Institute found that employment was the best way of improving their family circumstances, while remaining on benefit led to a progressive decline in their standard of living. It also found that lone parents with qualifications, even poor GCSEs, earned much more than those without. This suggests that putting them through education or training could do much to improve their chances of winning reasonably paid work.

The trouble comes because Ms Harman's arguments are often either opaque or inconsistent. Unlike the Tories, she is reluctant to make the case that the benefit system should not be loaded in favour of single parenthood or that the existence of lone parent benefits might actually encourage teenage girls to have babies, knowing that the State will support them. This is the fastest-growing group of lone parents and the most intractable. They tend to be the ones who have never worked, who have few if any qualifications and who are most resistant to trying to find a job.

Moreover, the abolition of the extra premium to new claimants perversely acts as a deterrent to seeking work. For if a lone mother takes a job and subsequently loses it, she becomes a new claimant and will find herself worse off than before. Another problem is that, while Ms Harman's efforts to encourage these mothers back to work are aimed at those whose youngest child is at school, the cuts in benefit apply across the board, so that those with pre-school children will also suffer. They may not want to work while their child is small, and even if they do, until there is affordable childcare for them, they may be unable to do so.

Ministers cannot afford to back down in the face of rebellion, not least because it would set a precedent in an area where many more such contentious changes will have to be made. But, when so much needs to be done in the field of welfare reform, it is a shame that the Government has not started with proposals that are better thought-out and easier to justify.

#### THE JET STREAM BUBBLE

Around the world in 80 tries is the flight path to the record

To lose a lighter-than-air balloon is one of the first of life's little tragedies. The child cries. The grown-up scolds. But neither can reverse the laws of gas and gravity, and so the balloon sails up and away as an early

practical lesson in physics. When the balloon is one-and-a-half times as tall as Nelson's column, the lesson comes as more of a disappointment. But yesterday's unintended escape of Richard Branson's Virgin Global Challenger was caused by the same hazard of the balloonist's art, magnified 10,000 times. Instead of the child letting go of the string, a thermal blast from the Atlas Mountains snapped the balloon's 16 cables, each tested to hold a load of one tonne, one after the other in a ripple effect.

The race to be the first balloonist to circumnavigate the globe passes for the moment to Virgin's four rivals. Steve Fossett, the old-fashioned solo balloonist who flies in an unpressurised cabin and thermal underwear, will be reassured that even the hightech sophistication of modern balloons does not protect them from the basic chances of

the game. For as with sailing, venturing off the land into an alien element presents natural risks for man. Balloons seem peculiarly vulnerable to them. In 1823 Charles Green, the pioneer balloonist, climbed into his basket and lit his fire for take-off. The balloon rose. slowly, but because of oversight or a practical joke, the ropes were not fastened. So the basket stayed behind on the ground. copilot clung on to the balloon hoop. Thus dangling, they floated over Cheltenham.

The largest unmanned balloon was made

All records rise on the backs of previous attempts. Hundreds tried to break the fourthe gaiety and the admiration of nations.

Instead of staying in it, Mr Green and his

by Winzen Research of St Paul, Minnesota. This monstrous bubble had an inflatable volume of 2 million cubic metres, and stood 300 metres high when inflated. But it never got off the ground, and was destroyed at its launch on July 8, 1975. Count Caproni's Ca 90 was another giant stumble into the air for mankind. Like an immense houseboat with nine multi-layered wings and eight engines, it was launched on Lake Maggiore in January 1921. It would not have looked out of line sailing up the Channel with the Spanish Armada. Count Caproni ordered the reluctant test pilot to take off with a ballast equivalent to 60 passengers. The pilot revved his 3,200 horse power engines and rose up. But its nose dipped, the ballast rolled to the front, the wings snapped in a ripple motion, and the Ca 90 plunged into the lake.

minute mile before Bannister or climb Everest before Hillary and Tenzing. To judge from the state of the ballooning art, somebody is going to fly around the globe soon to achieve what the Royal Geographic Society describes as "the last great aeronautical prize". There would be poetic justice if it were the man who has tried so hard and had so many heroic failures, adding to both

Minimum wage 'a threat to jobs'

From the Head of the Policy Unit of the Institute of Directors

Sir, I read the letter from Ian Mo-

Cartney, Minister of State at the DTI

(December 3), with bemusement. He

claims that the minimum wage has

two objectives: to end poverty pay and to help industry provide skilled and productive jobs. The first, in our view,

is concerned with the wrong target

The Government's concern should

surely be about poverty rather than

poverty pay". Poverty is overwhelmingly a problem of the unemployed: the minimum wage, by reducing job opportunities of those on the bottom

rung of the jobs ladder, is more likely

to increase than to reduce it.
We have substantial evidence to

show that the higher costs and admin-

istrative burdens of a minimum wage

will lead to employers recruiting

fewer disadvantaged people. It is,

moreover, clear to us that the imposi-

tion of a minimum wage runs quite

counter to the objectives of the Gov-

ernment's welfare-to-work proposals.

ond objective, I see absolutely no

reason why a minimum wage should lead to a more skilled workforce. On

the contrary, the extra costs could well

lead to employers having to cut back

their training budgets. We all accept

that British business would benefit

from a better skills base, but imposing

higher costs on employers is not the

way to achieve it.
Finally, I must take issue with Mr

McCartney's claim that the minimum

wage is supported by all sectors of industry. We in the IoD believe that it

will damage job prospects and that

the rigid enforcement procedures

(which will still miss the rogues) will

burden business. Even if it is brought

in at a modest rate, who knows how

vote-hungry politicians will ramp it

Sir. The letters about the minimum

wage from Ian McCartney and John

Healey, MP, suggest that the Govern-

ment is beginning to be carried away

by its own propaganda. One of the

most absurd claims in new Labour's

election manifesto was that a national

minimum wage would be a "plus" to

labour-market flexibility, when it is

up in future?

RUTH LEA.

December 4.

Yours sincerely:

Head of the Policy Unit,

From Dr Charles Hanson

Institute of Directors,

116 Pali Mall, SW1.

Concerning Mr McCartney's sec-

and the second looks plain wrong.

i Pennington Street, London Ei 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Labour tax plans 'dishonourable'

From Mr N. J. Inkley

Sir, I begin to understand the difference. Old Labour passed contradic-tory motions at its conferences. New Labour stage-manages conferences and reserves contradictory ideas for policy introductions. Thus, we must look for more personal funding of pension benefits - but they attack the tax position of private-sector pension

The National Health Service is under undue pressure — but the elderly (who make most demands upon it) are, by taxation change, discouraged from continuing with private provi-

We are all to be encouraged to get the savings habit - but not to get it to any degree or they will take it back through taxation (Some, it seems,

have got the habit too much already!)
I suppose all this must be the People's Plan (everything lately is a People's something) for using fiscal policy to thwart declared government intention. Now that is a new idea.

NEIL INKLEY. 6 Knot Lane. Walton-le-Dale, Preston, Lancashire. December 9.

From Councillor Graham Edwards Sir, Peter Lilley is quite right ("Hypocrisy at the Treasury", December 9) to draw attention to Labour's dishonourable action on taxes since the general election.

During the campaign the Labour Party pledged that they had "no plans to increase tax at all". Unfortunately, it has since become abundantly clear that this pledge only applied to the rates of income tax. It is hardly sur-prising therefore that we are now seeing huge tax increases for all sections of the population from the rich right down to poor single-parent families, even though income tax rates

remain unchanged. The news that council tax will rise by as much as 10 per cent (reports, December 3) - three times the rate of inflation - will come as a bitter blow to many people. The gradual removal of restrictions on council spending by the Labour Government will mean that this is only the start of aboveinflation increases in council tax in the years ahead.

This dreadful news follows on closely from Labour's £5 billion smash and grab raid on pension funds in the Budget, new taxes on recent announcement of new taxes on the personal savings of many middleincome families.

It is not only homeowners and savers who seek to provide for themselves rather than rely on the State who are being vindictively penalised by this new Labour Government after only seven months in power. In true socialist fashion we are all being made to suffer. I dread to think what other new taxes they will impose on us all over the next four years.

Events of the last few months have certainly proved beyond all doubt that new Labour is still the party of high taxes. They should change their slogan to read: "New Labour - New Taxes for the many, not just the few."

Yours faithfully GRAHAM EDWARDS (Conservative Group Leader). Cambridge City Council, The Guildhall, Cambridge. December 9.

#### Maxwell connection

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir. Geoffrey Robinson must defend himself over his alleged offshore musts, but Peter Lilley (article, December 9) doesn't strengthen the case against the Paymaster General by smearing him (and Mrs Helen Liddell) by associating them with Robert

Twenty-five thousand people (me included) worked for or with Maxwell and many subsequently had cause to regret it. A goodly number of them were politicians, including Lord Havers, Lady Thatcher's one-time Lord Chancellor, and two other former Tory Cabinet Ministers, Lord Rippon and Lord (Peter) Walker.

Guests at his home or his dining room included Lady Thatcher, Lord Tebbit, Sir Malcolm Rifkind and Lord Young, among others. It was in Maxwell's office that I first met Norman Lamont. The tributes paid to Maxwell on his death by Tory politicians, espe-cially Douglas Hurd, showed that Maxwell's Labour-supporting employees and associates weren't the only ones in error about him.

It would be madness - indeed, wicked - to suggest any or all of these were in some way less honourable because they enjoyed the fruits of Maxwell's money or his dining table. But when Mr Lilley seeks to throw the kind of mud he did in today's article it is as likely to stick to members of his own party as to others.

Yours faithfully, JOE HAINES. 1 South Frith. London Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. December 9.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046.

e-mail to: letiers@the-times.co.uk

November 26) totally failed to set out the options for green taxes such as those which could encourage more

On the same day as the Prime Min-

utterly worthless.

Yours faithfully. TIM YEO (Opposition House of Commons. December 8.

Sir. Surely the whole point of mining

ample with approval. Yes, they have a federal minimum wage, but this has been deliberately kept at a low level and there is an exemption for all firms with an annual turnover of less than \$500,000. Does Mr Healey advocate

such an exemption for the UK?

clear that the exact opposite is the

case. Mr Healey mentions the US ex-

Meanwhile Mr McCartney argues that the national minimum wage will "help industry provide skilled and productive jobs". One wonders if he has read the evidence of the Engineering Employers Federation to the Low Pay Commission. They quote the example of an electronics plant in East Anglia — a subsidiary of an American multinational firm - which currently employs 400 workers. It is reviewing its pay structure and production process, taking into account the likely impact of the national minimum wage. The review suggests that the company will probably reduce the number of semi-skilled production

employees by 100". The truth is surely that in committing itself to the old Labour policy of a national minimum wage new Labour lit the fuse on an inflationary timebomb which will go off early in 1999. That explosion will coincide with the end of the two-year period which has been set for keeping the lid on public

expenditure.
Presumably both old Labour and the Opposition are looking forward to 1999 with relish. One hopes that Gordon Brown and his team of Treasury ministers are making suitable preparations.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES HANSON (Economist and employment adviser), 32 Swarland Avenue. Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne.

From Mr Stephen Ford

Sir. Supporters of Thatcherite economics were unconcerned by the mass unemployment those reforms caused in the short and medium terms, yet alarm us with (contestable) claims that the minimum wage will have similar consequences. Why is this?

Have they suddenly begun to care about families and communities, or is it that they won't be the beneficiaries of this reform?

Yours sincerely, STEPHEN FORD, Roscoe and Gladstone Hall, Greenbank Lane, Liverpool 17. md0u7/41@liv.ac.uk

#### "Two-flag" Gibraltar

From the Opposition Spokesmen for Foreign Affairs and Defence

Sir, We are increasingly worried about the Government's attitude to

Today you report that Spain is once again calling for joint sovereignty of the Rock. British officials were said both to dismiss the idea as "completely unacceptable" and to make clear that "they would not do anything to upset Madrid". If the idea really is unacceptable, then the Government will have to block it - thereby upset-

ting Spain. Last week the Government voted to admit Spain into the military command structure of Nato (report. December 3) - despite earlier official assurances that Robin Cook would block their membership while they restricted access to Gibraltar. "This is not just a theoretical issue," a Foreign Office official stated in July. "Even now planning for a Nato exercise is

being hampered by these restrictions. Cook will, if necessary, go to the wire over this issue and block Spanish integration."

At Amsterdam last June the Government agreed to a Spanish amendment giving any member state of the EU the power to veto Britain's opt-in to the treaty's Schengen accord. Since the British Government has admitted that it might well want to opt in to these areas this amendment has handed Spain a vital bargaining counter on Gibraltar.

Before the election Tony Blair said that he would never allow Britain to be isolated in Europe. The people of Gibraltar are beginning to pay the

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL HOWARD (Opposition Spokesman for Foreign Affairs), GEORGE YOUNG (Opposition Spokesman for Defence). House of Commons. December 8.

Climate change From Mr Tim Yeo, MP for

Suffolk South (Conservative) Sir, The Prime Minister's article highlighting his "Green Summit" of business leaders at Downing Street (December 4) contains many laudable sentiments and rightly emphasises that climate change is an opportunity as well as a challenge for industry.

Sadly the gulf between ministerial rhetoric and substance on this crucial subject grows wider every day. Gor-don Brown's consultation Budget Statement (details and leading article, efficient and clean vehicle engines.

ister's article appeared, you reported his personal intervention to boost the use of coal in power generation - one of the oldest and most polluting methods available. The Government's inability even to recognise, let alone make, the hard choices involved in tackling climate change is undermining the role Britain might otherwise have played at the Kyoto conference.

In particular, more effective leadership from Britain might reduce the risk of this conference producing a compromise outcome so full of loopholes that any headline target for cuts in carbon-dioxide emissions will be

Environment Spokesman),

From Mrs Sheila Vince

coal is to burn it. I am in the dark as to how Mr Blair can reconcile his deter-

mination to preserve the coal industry

with his statements before the Green Summit: The European Union wants to see a 15 per cent reduction in those gases that cause glo-bal warming ... The UK has an excellent track record in science and technology. We need to build on this knowledge and experience to develop new, clean technologies. We need to look at new ways of producing energy. This could involve promoting greater use of solar energy and making more use of renewable sources. This will ensure that the UK delivers what it has signed up to and will help other countries fulfil their

Yours faithfully SHEILA VINCE. 42 Kenilworth Road. Coventry, West Midlands.

From the Chief Executive of the British Wind Energy Association

Sir. Professor Ian Fells's calculation (letter, December 3) that 25,000 wind turbines would be required to produce 10 per cent of the UK's electricity requirement is incorrect. It is infuriating that while we have been in Kyoto offering part of the solution, alarmist figures are trotted out at home.

The Government has a 10 per cent target for electricity from renewable sources. We anticipate meeting half of that by windpower, using around 5,000 turbines. This calculation does not even use the larger 1.5MW machines available "off-the-shelf". 5MW machines are already on designers' computer screens. Using those, perhaps as few as 3,000 windmills would deliver the short-term target for renewable energy.

Yours faithfully NICK GOODALL, Chief Executive, British Wind Energy Association, 26 Spring Street, W2. bwea@gn.apc.org

#### Addressing need for postcodes

From the Head of Operations of the Royal Mail Address Management Centre

Sir. The postcode is an integral part of Royal Mail's national system of delivery instruction, but it is only a part. Mr William Fisher (letter, November 25; see also letters. November 28, December 1 and 3) may succeed in having letters delivered when they bear only a street number and a postcode, but this practice is not reliable and could cause

Minimalist addressing will often mean that these envelopes have to be raken out of automated sorting and dealt with by hand; they can also create confusion at the point of

delivery. The average postcode covers about 15 dwellings, but, as James Ingram points out (letter, November 28), some embrace more than that, and duplicate numbering schemes occur closes within streets, for example. We request everyone to use a full address with an accurate postcode.

Yours sincerely, JOHN LANCASTER, Head of Operations. Royal Mail Address Management Centre, 4 St George's Business Centre. St George's Square, Portsmouth POI 3AX. December 5.

From Mr Robert Maxtone Graham

Sir. Some years ago my brother Jamie, having found on his machine a mumbled message asking for a copy of his list of collectable fishing tackle, sent one addressed to "The Occupier, 17 Inaudible Crescent, Alloa".

The grateful customer rang again next day, list in hand, to place an audible order.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT MAXTONE GRAHAM, 6 Moat Sole, Sandwich, Kent. December 8.

#### Prostate appeal

From the Chairman of the Prostate Research Campaign UK

Sir, We were delighted to read of the Everyman Christmas Appeal for £40,000 to purchase a gene sequencer for the Institute of Cancer Research laboratory at the Royal Marsden Hospital (details, December 8).

I ne I imes is to be congramiated on this initiative and thanked for its welcome, positive support of this important work on the genetics of prostate cancer. For all too long prostate cancer has had a low profile compared

with other tumours. We are sending to the appeal a donation of £5,000 and trust many members of the public, too, will make their contributions. Our grant will be the third we have made to this outstanding team. The two earlier ones concerned other equipment. The need

is undeniable. How encouraging it would be to see the target set by The Times met and exceeded by Christmas.

Yours faithfully. ROGER S. KIRBY, Chairman, Prostate Research Campaign UK, Northwood, Middlesex. December 8.

#### Public peril

From Mr Henry R. Douglas Sir, Jasper Gerard's informant (Di-ary, December 9) hasn't got it quite right on the Devil and Lady Polta-

Not anonymous, not 18th century, not "a devil" and not "one day". The original, On Lady Poltagrue, A Public Peril. is:

The Devil, having nothing else to do. Went off to tempt My Lady Poltagrue. My Lady, tempted by a private whim To his extreme annoyance, tempted him.

Author: Hilaire Belloc, Sonnets and Verse (Duckworth, 1923). Yours faithfully, HENRY R. DOUGLAS (Member, Hilaire Belloc Society).

Austen Road. Guildford, Surrey. December 9.

#### Taking account

From the Reverend John B. Cairns

Sir, How refreshing, at this particular time of year, to learn from your columns (report, Business, December 4) that the Accounting Standards Board has formulated "Rules for goodwill and intangibles".

In the season of goodwill we learn that "goodwill now cannot bypass the profit and loss account", and further that "unrecognised intangibles included in goodwill will potentially form the basis of a profit and loss charge".

It is to be hoped that the ASB has taken steps to inform Santa Claus prior to his activities on Christmas Eve. Tis the season to be jolly and most cheering to learn that goodwill and intangibles stand to be "amortised over their expected lives".

Yours faithfully, JOHN CAIRNS, Riverside. 5 Kirkton Road, Dumbarton.

December 5.



#### **COURT CIRCULAR**

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** December 9: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

this morning.

The President of the Republic of Mara Fiji and Adi Lady Lala Mara visited Her Majesty this afternoon

and remained to Tea. The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, this morning attended a meeting of the trustees at the National Maritime Museum.

Greenwich, London SEIO. His Royal Highness, Fellow, the Royal Society, this afternoon chaired a meeting of the Project Science Board of Patrons at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening held a Dinner for Charter Founder Members at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen and The Duke of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Dr Richard Thompson (Head of the Medical Household) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Ralph Southward (former Apothecary to the Household) which was held in The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Savoy Hill. London WC2 today. Princess Alice. Duchess of Gloucester and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were repre-sented by Dame Jean Maxwell-

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley

ST JAMES'S PALACE December 9: The Prince of Wales today held a Seminar and Lunch at St James's Palace to discuss issues of agriculture, environment and rural development in conjunction with the Agricultural Reform Group.

KENSINGTON PALACE December 9: The Duchess of Kent, President, this afternoon presided at the Congregation of Awards Ceremony at the Royal Northern

Manchester THATCHED HOUSE LODGE December 9: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon vis-ited Lambhill Court Residential

of the City of Glasgow).

Her Royal Highness, President, and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy this evening attended a Concert of Christmas Carols and Readings in aid of the Imperial Cancer Re-

#### Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, patron. Tonclass Association, will host a reception at St James's Palace at

The Princess Royal, patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, will attend a meeting of the International Task Force on Children affected by war and absolute poverty at the college, 50 Hallam Street, London WI, at 3.30; as patron. Association of Combined Youth Clubs, will visit the Fitzrovia Youth in Action Group. The War-ren, Whitfield Street, WI. at 6.30; will visit the Marylebone Youth Project, Cosway Street, NWI, at 7.10; and will visit the Mobeley Sports and Education Centre Kilburn Lane, W10, at 8.15.

The Duke of Kent, patron, London Philharmonic, will attend a con-cert, Festival Hall, at 7.15.

#### University news

Westminster University has awarded the following honorary degrees: Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) Doctor of Letters (honoris causa)
Margaret Charrington, borticulturalist, marketing consultant and
governor of Westminster University
Arie de Gues, economist and
organisational behaviourist
Bill Morris, general secretary, TGWU
Ben Okri. Nigerian writer and
Booker Prizewinner
Lord Paul, industrialist and
philanthomist hropist ittnäm, film producer

Doctor of Science (honoris causa) Profesor Richard Dawkins, scientist and educationist
Mike Theis, town planner
Keith Williams, engineer and
governor of Westminster University
Honorary Fellowship
Frances Moss, accountant and
academic.

College of Music, Oxford Road,

Home for the Elderly. 40 Lambhill Street. Kinning Park. Glasgow. and was received by Councillor Susan Baird (Vice Lord-Lieutenant

#### Memorial service

Sir Ralph Southward The Oueen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Dr Richard Thompson, Physician to the Queen and Head of HM Medical Household, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Ralph Southward, former Apothecary to the Queen and to the Royal

Household, held yesterday in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott, and the Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Lieutenant Commander Sir Rich-ard Buckley. The Rev John Rob-son. Chaplain to The Queen.

Mr Ian Southward, son, read the lesson and Remember by Christina Rossetti. Sir Richard Bayliss gave an address.

Members of the family, representatives of Glasgow High School London Club and the Society of Apothecaries of London, former colleagues and many friends were among those present.

#### Reception

**HM** Government Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, and members of the Defence Council were the hosts at a reception given by Her at Lancaster House, St James's, to meet the Commonwealth Defence and Service Advisers and Defence and Service Attachès in the

BY ALAN TOOGOOD HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FOLIAGE has triumphed over flowers at the Royal Horticultural Society's Christmas show, with ivies and topiary receiving the two gold medals awarded.

The ivies, shown by Fibrex Nurseries, of Pebworth, Warwickshire, are mainly trained specimens — standards, like small mop-headed trees, and columns with a few trailers for contrast. The collection, punctuated by giant tree ferns. Dicksonia antarctica, shows the variation in foliage shape and colour - all shades of green and variegated. A new cultivar introduced earlier this year by Fibrex is featured: Hedera helix "Silver Misty", a small grower with tiny cream and green variegated leaves, ideal for patio containers.

The topiary, from Romantic Garden Nursery, of Swannington, Norfolk, consists mainly of ball-headed trees, of such subjects as variegated and berrying hollies, Cedrus deodara (cedar), Prunus lusitanica "Myrtifolia" (Portugal laurel)

Mr Alistair Darling, Chief Sec-

retary to the Treasury, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner

of the Institute of Chartered Sec-

retaries and Administrators, held last night at Guildhall. Mr George Bartlett, president, was in the

Mr Martin Dunne, Lord-Lieuten-

ant of Warwickshire, presided at the Warwickshire Lieutenancy's

annual dinner held last night at

the Judges' House, Northgate

Mrs Sue Brownson, President of

the Retail Motor Industry Federa-

Warwickshire Lieutenancy

Retail Motor Industry

Federation

**Dinners** 

tion, presided at a dinner held at

the Victoria and Albert Museum last night to mark the visit to

London by the Scottish Motor

Trade Association and the Society

of the Irish Motor Industry. The

guests included:

sempervirens (cypress).

Seasonal flowering pot plants are

Nesta Jolliff, on the Jacques Amand stand, takes a break from the nativitiy scene to make an important call

Foliage triumphs over flowers

providing traditional Christmas colour at the show, which opened in Westminster yesterday. Poinsettias are everywhere, not only in rich red, the most popular colour, but in unusual modern colours. D'Arcy & Everest, of Somersham, Cambridgeshire, are showing a range of new red cultivars, "Sonata", "Coco" and "Xenia", as well as new ones in modern colours: "Malibu White" (rich cream) and "Highlight Apricot" (warm pink).

Modern poinsettias are also being shown by W. E. Thomas Ingwersen, of Gravetye, East Sussex, including "Jingle" in red, flecked with pink, creamy pink "Gro Pom" and "Monet", cream, finely speckled red.

Cyclamen also feature strongly. Unusual cultivars are included in the display from Potash Nursery, of Bacton, Suffolk. The flowers of the Gradation Series grade from a strong colour to a lighter shade. Particularly eye-catching

and Pinus wallichiana (pine), plus some are "Gradation Pink" (warm pink), impressive spirals of Cupressus "Gradation Salmon" (salmon pink) and 'Gradation" itself (neon pink). Westfield Cacti, of Kennford, Devon,

are showing Christmas cacti and the similar crab cacti. Traditional neon pink cultivars are competing with modern colours such as orange and flame shades. including a newish rich orange cultivar from Denmark, "Thor Vida".

Exhibits of dried flowers and plant

material complement the fresh flowers and foliage. One of the more imaginative displays comes from Southcombe Gardens, of Kenton, Devon, whose subtle study in buff, beige, cream and brown shades includes grasses, teasels and even dock seed heads.

The RHS has relaxed the rules for this festive show, so do not be surprised to find some exhibits touched with "frost" or "snow" and several exhibitors in pantomime costumes — the theme this year is Alice in Wonderland. The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to

#### **Anniversaries**

BIRTHS: John Bradshaw, president of the judges at the trial of King Charles I, Stockport, 1602: Thomas Holcroft, dramatist. London, 1745; George Shaw, naturalist, Bierton, Buckinghamshire, 1751; César Franck, composer, Liège, 1822; Emily Dickinson, poet, Amherst, Massachusens, 1830; Adolf Loos, architect, Brno, Austria 1870: Harold Alexander, Ist Earl Alexander of Tunis, Field Marshal, Governor-General of Canada 1946-52, London, 1891. DEATHS: Paolo Uccello, painter, Florence, 1475; Edmund Gunter, n. Lo Rowland Hill, 1st Viscount Hill,

Director of the Royal Botanic Damon Runyon, short story writer, 1946; Henry Cowell, com-The civil engineer Robert Thomp-

son patented pneumatic tyres, Cuba became an independent

Gardens, Kew. 1865-85, Sunningdale, Berkshire, 1911; Charles Rennie Mackintosh, architect, London, 1928; Luigi Pirandello, dramatist and novelist. Nobel laureate 1934, Rome, 1936; poser, Shady, New York, 1965; Otis Redding, singer and songwriter, died in an air crash, Lake Monoma, near Madison, Wisconsin. 1967; Jascha Heifetz, violinist,

man, Milford Haven Conservancy

#### Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.P. Frieze and Miss S.T. Jowat The engagement is announced between Anthony Paul, son of Dr and Mrs Paul Frieze, of Straw-berry Hill, Middlesex, and Susannah Trewlove, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Jowitt, of Ripon, North Yorkshire. Mr J.S.W. Grazebrook and Miss G.J. Peplow

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Grazebrook, of Gussage St Michael, Dorset, and Gabrielle, daughter of Mr C. Malcolm Peplow and Mrs Elisabeth Hooper, both of the Isle of Wight.

Mr C.F. Hill and Miss V.J. Baker The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs G.F. Hill, of Chehenham, and Vanessa, daugh-ter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Baker, of

Laxfield, Suffolk.

Mr E.R. Hughes and Miss J. Nelson The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Ron Hughes and the late Susan Hughes, of Newport, Gwent, and Joanna, daughter of Donald and Cheryl Nelson, of London.

Mr M.R. Pringewicz and Miss C.E. Kennedy The engagement is announced between Marek, younger son of Mr and Mrs Leonard Pruszewicz. of Reading, Berkshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Kennedy, of Liberton, Edinburgh. The Hon Harry Stanley and Miss S. Kassim-Lakha

and Miss 3. Rassim-Lakina
The engagement is announced between Harry, youngest son of Lord and Lady Stanley of Alderley, and Shirin, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Zul Kassim-Lakha, of

Mr B.M. Wiener and Miss C.A.M. Donner

The engagement is announced between Barnaby, younger son of Mr Patrick Wiener and Mrs Dinah Wiener, both of London, and Cassandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Donner, of Kensington, London.

Major J.D. Jonkisas and Miss E.J. Harrison-Bright The engagement is attractioned between James, son of the late Mr

D.Y. Jonklans and of Mrs Jonklaas, of Riseley, Bedfordshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Keith Bright, of London, and Mrs Patricia Harrison-Bright, of Woodend, West Sussex Mr A.P. Wilson

and Miss A.J. Duthie The engagement is announced between Andrew Philip, elder son of Mr and Mrs Coan Wilson of Headingley, Leeds, and Abbey Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Duthie, of Pollokshields.

#### Marriages

Mr D.H. FitzHerbert and Miss S.A. Wijeyaratae The marriage took place on Sac-urday, December 6, at Christ Church, Kensingson, of Mr David FirzHerbert, son of the late Mr Yvo FitzHerbert and of Mrs Fitz-Herbert, of Somerford Farm. Brinkworth, Wiltshire, to Miss Sonali Wijeyarame, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Mervyn Wijeyaratne, of Colombo. Sri Lanka. The Rev Michael Fuller

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was amended by Miss Anusha Wijeyaraine, the Hon Rosanna Lynekon, Harrier Elton, Larnikai Torrens, Luke Fizzlerbert and Rufus Loveridge. Mr Anthony Bailey was best man.
A reception was held at Brooks's

and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr P.A. Legrave and Miss S.J. Quinlan

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 6, at Ali Saints, Fulham, between Mr Paul Legrave, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Legrave, of Broadsmirs, and Miss Shelagh Quinlan, daughter of the late Rev Dermot Quinlan and of Mrs Edna Quinlan, of Uppingham, Prebendary Kenneth N. Bowler officiated.

#### Today's birthdays

Judge Shirley Arwyl, QC, 57; Mr John Birt, Director-General, BBC. 53: Mr Kenneth Branagh, actor and director, 37: Sir John Collins, chief executive, Vestey Group of Companies, 56; Professor B.W. Curliffe, FBA, former president, Society of Antiquaries of London, 58; Mrs Ann Gloag, co-founder, Stagecoach Holdings, 55; Miss Rumer Godden, writer, 90; Lord Harris of High Cross, 73; Mr Nicholas Henderson, racehorse trainer of henderson, racehorse trainer, 47: Lord Jopling, 67: Sir David Kelly, former president, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associtions, 61; Miss and Omonist Associations, oi; Miss J.M. Kemworthy, Principal, St Mary's College, Durham, 64; Mr Jahangir Khan, squash player, 34; Mr Nicolas Kynaston, organist,

Mr James McAdam, chairman, Signet Group, 67: Mr Raphael Maklouf, sculptor, 60: Sir Jeremy Morse, former chairman, Lloyd Bank, 69; Professor Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, John Peel, former Surgeon-Gynaecologist to The Queen, 93, Mr T.S. Roberts, former chair-

Trust, 64; Mr C.W. Turner, former Rector, Glasgow Academy, 64; Mr M.T. Wright, former director, National Heritage Memorial National Fund, 61.

former Director-General, National

#### Latest wills

Phyllis Annie Dickson of Crowthorne, Berkshire, left estate valued at E521,365 net. Alec George Jones, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £499,691 net.

Charles Francis Kenyon Gold thorpe, of Salisbury. Wiltshire, left estate valued at £515,125 net. He left £25,000 to the RSPCA. Richard Francis Ransom, of

Madingley, Cambridge, left estate valued at £580,422 net. Dorothea Mary Gilpin, of Peterborough, left estate valued at E601,952 net. Billene Love Wall

bury, London NW9, left estate valued at £545,169 net. Peter Lowe, of St John's Wood. London NW8, left estate valued at

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UK HOLIDAYS

MIDWEEK

**GIFTS** 

RENDEZVOUS

## Exult in his hallowed name; let those who seek the Lord-be joyful in heart. Look to the Lord and be strong; at all times seek his prese Psaim 105 : 3,4 BIRTHS Fleas, a sister for Jack, Isabella and Nico. seasetta and ruco. EARE - On December 3rd, to Deborah (née Hurdle) and Simon, a son, Alaxander Michael Venton, Brother for Matthew, birthday present for Tad John and Gabrielle, a son, John Samuel Alexander, a brother for Maria. daughter, Rechel Kate. DOION - On December 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Anna (née Milisom) and Tony, a son, Oliver Jordan, a houther for Eloise. DONT - On December 8th, at Queen Charlottes, to Clare (née Tinney) and Sebastien, a daughter, Eloise Clementine. ARQUIARSON On December 4th, to Catriona (née Eose) and Donald, o daughter, Isobel Rose, a sister for Eory and Archie. RESSON - On December 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Serena and Michael, a daughter, Ellnor Violet, a sister for Alice, George and

brother for Maria.

D'AMOURS - On November

27th at The Portland
Hospital, to Karen (née
Braty) and Kevin, a
daughter, Rachel Kate.

DOION - On December 6th at
The Portland Hospital, to
Anna (née Milisom) and
Tony, a son, Oliver Jordan, a
hrother for Loise.

DONT - On December 8th, at
Onem Charlotte's, to Clare

MARKES - On December 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Elise (née Thirley) and Nigel, a daughter, Anoushka Rachel.

OLY-HASTED - On Decemb ZOLIEGO, Switzerland.
MEYRING - On December 7th
at The Portland Hospital, to
Michele and Heiner, a
daughter, Anna Christine, a
sister for Julie.

PRATLEY - On 30th November in Kinthens Treis Herford, Garmany, to Stephanis (ase Hall) and Philip, a son, Marces James, a brother for Alexander.

BIRTHS REYNOLDS - On 8th December to Ekspeth (née Small) and Peter, a son, Calum Graham WICKHAM - On November 29th in Nottingham, to Caroline and Stephen, a son, Jack Arthur.

WILMOT - On December 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Christine Hummond and Tomas Wilmot, a son, Tomas YOUNG - On 5th Documber, to Sarah (nee Goedemah) and David, a danghter, Grace Ellen Aftwa, a sister for Sam and Alica.

ALLAN - Douglas Lacey (Doug) on 4th December 1997 died on 4th December 1997 died peacefully at The Close Paucing Home, Burcot, Caon. Loving husband of jo and father of Bridget, Judy, John and Viki. Funeral at 3 pm Friday 12th December 1997 at Oxford Crematorium. Family flowers only please, if desired, donations to The Chest, Heart and Stocke Association clo FL Barrett, 81 Ock Street, Abingdon, Cron. CX14 SAG.

BALLARO - Adal: (Adelaine) on 8th December 1997 aged 73. 8th December 1997 aged 73.
Much loved wife of Geoffray,
mother of Hilary, Claims and
Anabella and grandmother of
Victoria, Charlotte, Lucy,
Manual and James, Funezal Victoria and James Funeral at Copford, nr. Colchester on Friday 12th Decamber 1997 at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St Helena's Hospice clo W.H. Shephard, 93-94 High Street, Colchester, Fasser Street, Colchester, Esser COI 1TH

BALL - On Friday 5th December aged 75 peasefully after a courageous fight against mncer, John Ball, Founder of Solvedere. Tel: (01672) 512060. BORRETT - Frances Isobel

BORRETT - Frances Isobel Borrett peacefully in her sleep on December 7th 1997. Funeral Service will be held at \$t Mary's Church, Chieveley, Newbury, Berkshire on Monday 15th December at 3 pm. Flowers may be sent to Camp Hopson Funeral Directors, 90 West Street, Newbury, tel: (01635) 522210.

Call 100 Contract through the Committee Contract Committee

**DEATHS** 

BOYS - On 6th December, 1997, Thelma, most beloved wife of Tony, a devoted and much loved aunt and great-aunt Requiem Mass on 15th December at 2 pm at the Carmelite Church, Kensington Church Street, WB, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, "And the end of all our esploring will be to arrive where we started and to how the place for the first

BRODIE - Suddenly on Saturday 6th December 1997 aged 70 years, Hugh Gregor, beloved husband of Jenn, tather of Andrew and Diana, grandfather of Lill The funeral service will be held at \$1 Peter's Church, Hersham on Wednesday 17th December at 1.30 pm. Floral tributes or donations to RNLI if desired and all enquiries to F.W. Chitty & Co. 26 Brassey House, New Zealand Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1QD, tek (01932) 254255.

CHAMBERS - On 6th December 1997 peacefully after a long illness cheerfully and courageously berne. Roland Momerieff MB, BS, DOMS, aged 77 years. Beloved husband of Bunty. The funeral service will be held at 51 Peter & 51 Paul Church, Market Overton on Friday December 12th at 230 pm followed by interment in the churchyard, Family flowers only please but donations it desired to the Eutland Memorial Hospital of EM. Dotman Funeral Director, 10 Main Street, Bisbrooke, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 965.

CHAMSERIAYNE - (nee Kerr). Euphemia (Phemis), on 5th December 1997, at Tullynally, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath, Ireland. Wife of

Westmeath, Ireland, were or the late Air Commodore Paul (Tanks) Tunkerville Chamberlayne of Chamberlainstown, Kells, Co. Meath. Devoted mother of Pilly and Michael. Beloved grandmother and grear-grandmother and most dag

mother-in-law. Burial on Thursday, 11th December at

CHUBB - Jean Bartram, wife of Major Teddy Chubb, mother of Susan, grandmother of Emma, Richard and Victoria. Peacefully at her home on the December 1997. Fonural at St. Mary's Church, Buckden, Cambs. on Tuesday 16th December at 2 pm, followed by interment at Suckden Cemetery. All enquiries to William Peacock & Sons, Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, Cambs.

Lane, Huntingdon, Cambs. tel: (01480) 453882. peacefully on December 9th aged 90. Seloved husband of the late Setty, much loved father of Rosemary and grandfather of Lucinda, Sara and William. Service at Guildford Crematorium on Tuesday 16th December 2pm. Family flowers or

ORAKE - J.R.F. Drake (jack)
V.M.H. late of Inshriach
Alpine Flant Nursery
Aviemore aged 88 on 4th
December 1997 peacefully
at Crewkerne Cremation at
Yeovil Crematorium Friday
12th December at 1130 am
Family flowers only,
domations to World Wildlife
Fund for Nature c/o A.J.
Wakely & Sons, Chapel
House, Hermitage Street,
Crewkerne TAIB SES.

CHAYER - Shirley, widow of Michael, mother of Simon, James and Mark, peacefully on Saturday 6th December 1997 after a long filmes: bayrely bonn. Service at the Minkta, Ilminster, Somerset on Friday 12th December at 10 am followed by cremation at Yeovil 11 am. Family flowers only, donations to Save the Children.

HODGSON - Jame Messer on December 6th pencatully in Exetar aged 95, beloved wife of the late Charles and mother of David. Dearly loved by her family and triends. Panetal Service at Newton St Cytes Church on Monday December 15th at 12 noon to be followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for BNII clo A. White & Sons, Peoples Park Road, Crediton, Devon.

EXE - Captain George OBE MN of Accrington Lancashire. Peacefully on November 24th 1997 aged 92. Loving husband of the late Ena and father of Katharine and William.

the love of God and of his family and friends. Died at the Royal London Rospital on Friday Sth December 1997. Funetal on Saturday 13th December at 37 John of John of London Commendation and Commendation and Committal at the City of London Crematorium, Aldersbrook Road, E12, at 11.45 am. Further information from Prideaux House on 0181-986 6000. No flowers, donations in lieu towards the work of St Joseph's Hospice, Mara Street, E8 45A or Prideaux House, 10 Church Crescent, E9 7DL.

GYANI - Jagmohan Singh, on 6th December 1997 at home with his family as he wished. Beloved husband of Shanti. Heloved busband of Shanti, loving father of Frem, Onto, Angel, Heidi and Karl and a magical Sabaji to Alex and Oliver. He will be sadly missed Cremation will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on 12th December 1997 at 11 am, Floral tributes or donations for a formal tributes or donations of the Macmilian Nurse Care cio Andrew Holmes & Son, 92 Whitton Road, Hounslow, TW3 2DQ, tak (0181) 572-3277.

guests included:

Sir Norman Fowler. MP, and Lady Fowler, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, OC, and Lady Fraser. Sir John Houghton, CBE, FRS, and Lady Houghton, Ms Cheryl Gillan, MP, Mr Jack Leeming, Ms Sophia Lambert, Mr and Mrs Roy Ward, Mr and Mrs Michael Snyder, Mr and Mrs Roger Smith, Mr and Mrs Rohin Huif, Mr and Mrs John Coward, Mr and Mrs Alee Murray, Mr and Mrs Derek Lindop, Mr and Mrs Martin Austin, Mr and Mrs James Hird, Mr and Mrs Alee Murray, Mr and Mrs Martin Austin, Mr and Mrs James Hird, Mr and Mrs George MacDonald, Mr and Mrs Victor Hamilton, Mr and Mrs Cyrll McHugh, Mr Christopher Brownson, Mr and Mrs Christopher Macgowan and Mr David Evans.

Road, Crediton, Devon.

JOHNSON - Rosemary (nee Gedye) at home on December 8th, aged 58 years, from cancer courageously borne. Dear wife of Colin, mother of Caroline and Louise and grandmother of Natalle and Alexander. Private funeral and cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be announced leter. No flowers, please. Denations in her memory to Victim Support, Charity Number 298028 cfo 7. Burke, National Pumbraiser, Canmer House, 39 Brixton Road, London SW9 6DZ.

KLENDE - Kay died suddenly

SWY O.M.

(LEGOF - Kay died suddenly but peacafully on December 6th 1997 aged 80. Much loved wife of David, mother of Michele and Charlotte, gnandmother of jo, Victoria, Millie, fillck and Meg, and gnest-grandmother of Asron. great-grandmother of Funeral at Weston

Funaral at weston-super-Mare Crematorium on Tresday 16th December at 11.30 am, No flowers please, instead donations to SSAFA, Weston-super-Mare c/o The Elms Funeral Directors, 50 Saker Street, Weston-super-Mare, tal: 01934 616006. MABBOTT - John Edward on December 5th 1997 aged 85 years of Shrevsbury, Funeral Service at Shrewsbury Service at Serversoury Cramitmini on Wednesday December 17th at 240 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations for the Lague of Friends at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Enquiries please to the funeral directors tel: (01743) 344646.

(01743) 344646.

MASEFIELD - Veronica Margery nee Hawke widow of Jack mother of Delphinia and the late Jacqueline and Camilla adored grandmother of Leander Hereward and Innogen died 4th December. She was very base. Foneral 11am Saturday 20th December at Harting Church Family flowers.

MELIERS - On December 7th 1997 John Meliens suddenly at home. Much loved and sadly missed by all his family and trisuits. Funeral Service will take place at Caford Crematorium on Monday December 15th at 2pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the ESPCA All unquiries to Camp Hopson Funeral Directors, 90 West Street, Newbury, tel: (01635) 522210.

MOUNCER - On 6th December 1997 suddenly Alam joseph aged 68 years of Clid Manor, Mere. A devoted hirshand, special father and beloved by all his family and many felends. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him. A Roman Catholic Finneral Mass will be held at Mare Parish Church on Monday 15th December at 1 pm. Flowers or if desired donations for Salisbury Hospital Lauhaemia Pond or Coronary Care Unit may be sent c/o Hill & Son, Funeral Directors, Water Street, Mere, Wilts. Tel: 01747 860361.

MYERS - On 6th Decamber 1997 Brigadier Edmund Cheries Wolf (Eddie) CBE, D.S.O. Husband of Lutie (died 1995) and father of Thanks, A Service of Thanks, A Service of Thanks, Proceeding the Church, Broadwell, Glos. Please send no flowers. Donations H wished to be divided between Broadwall Church and The Royal Church and The Royal Engineers Benevolent Fund may be left at the Church or sent to W.J. Wright, Puneral Director, Well Lane, Stow on the Wold, GL54 2AR

NEWELL - Drusilla (née MEWELL - Drusilia (née Mathews) on December 5th aged 83 years. Pescefully at Bed Hybryd Nursing Home. Flint. Beloved widow of Ketth formerly of Neston, Cheskire, mother of Rosalle, Richard, Riephen and Peter. Grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at Neston Parish Church on Mondry Decamber 15th at 1pm. Family flowers only.

ROBERSON - On December 8th Aubrey Clare in his 95th year Much loved by his wife the late Moilie Panter-Downes, by his daughters Virginia and Disna and by his grandchildren and grandchildren. Funeral Service to be held at 5t Mary's Chiddingfold on Monday December 15th at 3.30 pm. Flowers to J. Gorringe & Son, 55 Hare Lane, Farncombe, Surrey.

ROBOTHAM - Jeanne (née Ekins) on 6th December after a long fillness, dearly loved mother of Susan, Nicholas, Stephen and grandmother of Alexander, Nicholas, Andrew. Christopher and Julis, Funeral Monday 15th December 4-40 pm at Charing Crematorium, Ashiord. Flowers or donations if desired to Parkinson's Disease e/o Boves, 115 Station Road, Ashiord, TN23 18Y, tel: (01233) 643000.

Los Angeles, 1987. general, 1842; Alfred Nobel, industrialst and founder of the state, 1898, prizes bearing his name, San The first Nobel Prizes were

> THANKSGIVING SERVICES

> > OWEN - Dals Owen DL disc 12th November 1997 Service of Thanksgiving at

SHAW - Eleanor Daisy (nee Horne) passed away suddenly on Thursday 4th Decamber. A loving wife of the late Harold Watkins Shaw. The funetal service will take place at Worcester Crematorium on Friday 12th Decamber at 12.30 pm. No flowers places but donations if so desired to The Musician's Benevolent Fund c/o Bedwardine Funanal Services, 1 St Johns, Worcester, tel: (01905) 748811. SHEED - Winfred, widow of Arnold Shield (former executive with the Halifax Building Society). Much loved mother of Carolya and Vivien. Funeral will take place, Friday December 12th

STENHAM - Anthony on November 29th unexpectedly aged 52, beloved son, father, brother, uncle.

1997, peacefully, Raginald Walter aged 91 years. Of Coston, Lancs, formerly of Poole and Enfield, loving father of John, grandfather of Faul and Alison, Enquiries to Meerrs, R. Livesey Ltd. Tel: (01257) 262602.

TUFNELL - Timothy on December 8th 1997 aged 77. Peacefully after a long illness. Funeral at St Michael and All Angels, Sunninghill, on Friday. December 12th at 12 noon. No flowers but donations may be made to The Forces. Help Society, 122 Brompton Boad, SW3 or the Order of St John, St John's Gate, St John's Lane, ECIM 4DA. A Memorial Service will be announced. WELBURN .

SASSOOM - Evelyn on 7th SASSOOM - Reelyn on 7th
December at Nassau,
Bahamas, widow of Sir Victor
Sassoon Bt. G.B.E. Funeral
11am Saturday 13th
December at Trinity
Methodist Church, Nassau.
Family flowers only but
domations in lisu may be
sent to the Sir Victor
Sassoon Gehamas) Heart
Foundation, FO Box N1706,
Nassau, Bahamas.

Service of Thanksgiving at 11 am on Saturday December 13th 1997 at All IN MEMORIAM -

SUMMER - Murial Evaline fied pescefully on Sunday 7th December 1997. Funeral Service private. Memorial Service at Buckfast Abbey to be arranged.

COVEN - In cherished memory of Rais, vary loved mamma December 10th 1957. Frank and Edwins.

walburn Elizabeth suddanly on Saturday 6th December 1997. Purseral at Guildford Crematorium at 11.30 am on Saturday 13th December. All enquiries to Robert Ayling Funeral Services, tel: (01483) 567333.

ERGUSSON - Mary Isolen (Molly). A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at St John's Ericcoll Church Prince

SARLEU - This is to honour the memory of James George Raffliet who was born in Haverfordwest, Fembrokeshire, Wales on 13th March 1832 and died at Camberwell, Victoria, Australia on 10th December 1897. He went to see at the age of 17 years and arrived at Port Phillip Heads in January 1853. After swimming from the quarantine Station he landed at Point Lonsdale on 18th February 1853. For nearly 45 years he was a proud resident of Queenscilif and also a proud ploneer of the colony of Victoria. "Write me so one who loves his lellow mem" (Inserted by David Baillieu on behalf of many descendants and relatives in this country and abroad).

XMAS GREETINGS SOUTREY and SESS Talbot repret they are minble to sand Christ-man cards this year but send love and good whales to all

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#### **OBITUARIES**

#### BRIGADIER E.C.W. MYERS

Brigadier E. C. W. Myers, CBE, DSO, died on December 6 aged 91. He was born on October 12, 1906.,

n September 1942, a month before the Battle. of El Alamein, acting Brigadier Eddie Myers was working in the Combined Operations branch of GHQ. Cairo, when a member of Lord Glenconner's Special Operations Executive came into his office and asked him to volunteer to lead a demolition team: This was to be dropped into Greece to blow up the great Gorgopotamos railway viaduct, thus cutting the main German supply line to the Piracus and thence to Rommel's Africa Korps. Despite being within a fortnight of going home after seven years' service in the Middle East, and with only five training parachute jumps to his credit, the 30-year-old Myers accepted the challenge.

The plan was that he should contact the Greek Resistance bands in the mountains southwest of Lamia. After completing their mission, the team was to be rescued by submarine from the west coast. Despite a difficult drop, Myers managed to link up with General Zervas's right-wing EDES and with their rivals. the left-wing ELAS under "Aris" (the Communist. Athanasios Klaras). Surprisingly, in the light of subsequent events, Myers won the confidence of both Greek commanders and led them in the highly successful combined attack on the Gorgopotamos viaduct, driving off its strong Italian garrison and cutting Rommel's supply line for six critical weeks during his retreat from El Alamein.

Much to the team's disappointment, the submarine rescue had to be cancelled, and Myers was directed to set up a British Military Mission to the Resistance forces in the mountains. He was to expand, arm. train and direct the operations of the andarte (Greek resistance fighters) in harassing the Axis occupation forces. He became aware much sooner than anyone in Cairo or London that Aris's ELAS bands were the military wing

of the communist-dominated EAM, a grouping of left-wing political parties in Athens, which was intent on turning Greece into a socialist, if not a

communist, republic.

It took all of Myers's very considerable negotiating skills to stop the rival bands fighting each other instead of the Germans. Using his ability to turn off the RAF supply drops to any recalcitrant bands, he proposed and managed to enforce a "National Bands" agreement, whereby Zervas and Aris accepted the operational direction of C-in-C Middle East and refrained from attacking each other during

Myers's time in Greece.

In the spring of 1943 the deception plan for the Allied invasion of Sicily called for a maximum harassing effort in Greece to divert Axis attention eastwards, Myers organised an intensive and widespread sabotage campaign with the willing co-operation of Zervas and Aris, but they were not prepared to tackle the German-held Asopos railway viaduct, which Myers hoped to destroy.

The British members of his team, however, succeeded in blowing the viaduct up themselves by stealth and with the help of local Greek villagers, using an almost impossible approach through the difficult river gorge below the bridge. Such was the severity of the damage that the main Athens railway was closed for four By the summer of 1943

Myers was reporting on the dangers of civil war if the. Greek government-in-exile in-Cairo was not widened to. include representatives of the mountain bands, and if no announcement was made that a national plebiscite on the monarchy would be held before King George II was allowed to return to Greece. Unfortunately, the tenor of Myers's reporting ran counter to strongly held Foreign Office views, and contrary to Churchill's wish to re-establish the monarchy when the Germans evacuated Athens.

Myers left Greece for Cairo the beginning of August 1943 in an RAF Dakota from a secretly constructed airstrip. accompanied by four dele-



from the mountain bands, to explore the way ahead and to impress upon the British and Greek authorities the dangers of civil, war, if more attention was not paid to political feelings within the country as opposed to those of the government-in-exile.

Myers soon found that he was addressing deaf ears. The mountain delegates returned to Greece frustrated and angry, and the civil war that Myers so feared started almost at once. Myers himself was flown back to London for consultations. He had long talks with Churchill, Eden and King George VI but, much to his distress, he could not bring

about any change of policy. In Whitehall, he was deemed to have helped to precipitate the crisis by being too pro-ELAS. In fact, he had been trying to be realistic about the strength and determination of those Greeks who did not wish to see the return of the monarchy and were prepared to fight for

a republic. Myers was not allowed to return to Greece. Unhappily, his forecasts proved all too accurate when the communist rebellion broke out soon after the liberation of Athens in the autumn of 1944, resulting in the equivalent of three divisions of British troops being diverted from the Italian front to re-establish the authority of the Greek Government.

Edmund Charles Wolf Myers was the son of Dr C. S. Myers, consultant psychologist to the British Expeditionary Force in the First World War and the first Professor of Psychology at Cambridge University. His mother was Edith Seligman, daughter of Isaac Seligman, an eminent Jewish banker. He was educated at Haileybury, the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and at Caius College Cambridge; and he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1926. A fine horseman and an amateur pilot as well as being a highly

intelligent and forceful personality, he enjoyed his prewar soldiering in the Middle East, where he first saw active service during the Arab revolt in Palestine. He then com-manded the 2nd (Cheshire) Field Company in

Armoured Division in the Western Desert during Wavell's 1941 offensive, which drove the Italians out of Cyrenaica. After attending the Staff College, Haifa, he was employed in Combined Operations until he went to Greece. Back in England, after his

year in the Greek mountains, he continued to work for the Special Operations Executive in preparation for Overlord. but as soon as the Normandy invasion took place he was appointed Commander Royal Engineers of 1st Airborne Division and dropped at Arnhem, where he organised the rescue of the survivors across the Lower Rhine. He also took part in the Airborne Division's liberation of Norway.

In the aftermath of the war

he was Mountbanen's Deputy Director of Intelligence in the Far East, dealing with the problems of the re-occupation of the British, French and Dutch territories. He seemed destined to become an intelligence specialist when he was appointed Senior Military Representative on the Joint Intelligence Bureau in London, but soon after the Korean War began, he found himself Commander Royal Engineers in the Commonwealth Division on the Imjin River in 1951-52.

His last three appointments in the Army were: senior Army Instructor at the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, 1952-55: Chief Engineer, British Troops Egypt, 1955-56; and Deputy Director of Personnel Administration in the War Office, 1957-59.

After he retired in 1959 he had a successful second career in the civil engineering industry. He had found time to publish in 1955 an account of his exploits in Greece in his book. Greek Entanglement.

On his return from Greece in 1943, he married Louisa Sweer-Escott, who had also been working for SOE in Cairo. She died in 1995. He is survived by their daughter.

#### **ALLEN WRIGHT**

Allen Wright, arts editor and theatre critic, died after a long illness on November 16 aged 65. He was born on February 22, 1932.

A GENERATION of young theatre hopefuls who ventured north to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to take their first public steps on the boards owe a debt of gratitude to Allen Wright. For nearly 30 years arts editor of The Scotsman, he took their work seriously and devoted proper space to reviewing it. He also inaugurated the Fringe First awards. which have become a hadge of distinction throughout the drama world.

Allen Wright, born and brought up in Edinburgh, was the son of a civil servant. Educated at George Watson's College, he joined The Scots-man straight from school as a tube boy" - named after the tubes through which copy travelled to the composing room in the days before computers. Many distinguished iournalists started in this way, but Wright was told by the then editor that he had no future as a reporter because he was not a graduate.

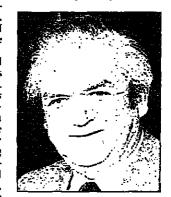
He was to prove this fore-cast completely wrong. After National Service in the Royal Tank Regiment, 1950-52, he returned to The Scotsman and remained there for the rest of his working life, becoming an outstanding reporter and eventually deputy news editor as well as film critic. In 1965 Alastair Dunnett, by

then in the paper's editorial chair, appointed Wright arts editor - at the time something of an innovation. Over the next few years, with the Edinburgh Festival establishing itself as a fixture on the international calendar. Wright ensured that The Scotsman had the most comprehensive coverage.

He was an early champion of the case for a Scottish National Theatre, and he was a strong supporter of new Scottish drama at the Traverse and the Citizens. One of his heroes was J. M. Barrie, of whom he wrote a biography. Glamour of Twilight.

As the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe expanded during the 1970s and 1980s, Wright

presided over an astonishing newspaper operation, running single-handedly a vast team of reviewers who between them covered as many as 800 shows in the course of the three-week festival run. A special daily supplement had to be produced, which he controlled from a desk groaning beneath the weight of undisciplined piles of paper. One Scotsman editor, retreating in horror from the sight, described it as an environmental hazard, but a suggestion that it might all he done by computer was



politely ignored. Despite the apparent chaos, the right critic was always assigned to the right production, and each week a list of Fringe First winners emerged.

Wright was a journalist of the old school who believed in courtesy, kindness, and the need to help and encourage young colleagues learning the trade. He preferred gentle persuasion to outright confrontation. But he had an uncanny knack of getting his own way. Editors who sought to impose views with which he disagreed would discover, for reasons they could never quite fathom, that an alternative course of action had, in the end, been adopted. It usually worked better than the one

they had suggested.

A keen golfer. Wright had been looking forward to retire-ment, but suffered a stroke in 1993 which brought his career prematurely to an end. It also had the distressing effect of impairing his speech. Nevertheless, he remained cheerful and courageous throughout a gradual deterioration.

He is survived by his wife. Eleanor, and their three daughters.

#### BAKBAKA

Barbara (Monique Serf), French singer, died as a result of a lung infection on November 25 aged 67. She was born on June 9, 1930.

French singers outside the realm of pop whose career spanned two generations with equal success: those who more L'Ecluse in 1957, or before the

**FLIGHTS** 

DIRECTORY

BARBARA was one of the few or less grew up with her in the 1950s and 1960s, and their children, in the 1980s. Whether in the 60-seater cabaret

*let*world

100,000 who came to listen in the Hippodrome de Pantin in 1981, she managed to develop

a bond with her audience epitomised in one of her most famous songs, Ma plus belle histoire d'amour c'est vous, itself written in response to

It was, again untypically for popular vocalists, a relationship seemingly devoid of nar-cissism on the singer's part she responded personally to her fans, became friends with many, and was always discreet in her benevolence. At home in Précy sur Marne, she

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would make anonymous donations to buy Christmas presents for the children of the village, and she was a regular and generous visitor to prisons and hospitals.

More publicly, in a country which was late to come to terms with the issue, Barbara was one of the first French stars to campaign for Aids awareness and even used to carry around boxes of contraceptives for her young lans.

Born in Paris to a Polish mother and Russian father. both Jewish, she spent the war years in hiding with her family before settling in Le Vésinet, just outside Paris. She studied classical music as a free student at the Conservatoire, and her growing interest in song led her to a first light opera role and, in 1949, the hesitant beginnings of a singing career. These were unglamorous if instructive: she spent a year washing up and observing other artistes at Pierre Prévert's cabaret, La Fontaine des Quatre Saisons, singing whenever and wherever she could. Then came a two-year stint in Brussels, where she opened her own rather unsuccessful cabaret in a bar.

Artistically she was already on her way to the cross between music hall and intimiste Left Bank artiness that would become her trademark. Her first week at L'Ecluse came in 1952, and was to be followed by a sixyear period there starting in 1957. This was when she confirmed her artistic identity: dressed in black, "the colour of



oy, of the evening, of night, of flamboyance of dignity, of danger, of seduction, of sorrow, too, of course", sitting behind her piano and singing songs of loss, loneliness and

absence.

By 1959 she had begun to add her own compositions to a repertoire that included. among others, songs by Brassens, Arnavour, Moustaki . MacOrlan and the writers of the French realist and comic traditions. Her first LP - and one of her finest recordings - was Barbara chante Barbara.

The style was instantly recognisable: the voice, high and flutev or, with age, deeper and more jazzy, singing or half-speaking the words that seemed to crowd the traditional dance rhythms. The timing and expressive control were extremely precise. It was, compared to many others, an intellectual manner, but always steeped in intense, often dramatic, feeling. By the same token it was not a style that

travelled especially well outside France - although she did make one album in German, Barbara singt.

The 1960s saw Barbara's audience and reputation grow progressively. She went from L'Ecluse to the larger Bobino. embarked on a European tour in 1967, and then headlined at Olympia in 1969. There she announced her retirement from the stage. It was to last only three years, during which time she continued to write and record, and made a number of films, including Franz, with Jacques Brel. The return to touring coincided with her move away from Paris to Precy.

On her return to the stage. Barbara's still growing audience began to get younger. It was now that she became something of an icon. One of her songs was dedicated to President François Mitterrand, and in 1986 she performed on stage with Gerard Depardieu, playing the piano as he recited her texts.

Her own performances had an almost liturgical quality to them: she would begin by moving intently towards the audience, palms open and upraised. The last, at the Théatre du Châtelet in 1993. had to be called off after a few days because she was repeatedly ill with pulmonary infections. They were followed by a double live album and, last year. Il me revient en mémoire, one of the bestsellers of her career.

An early marriage was dissolved. There were no children.

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#### HEROES OF ORAN.

Part of the plan for the Anglo-American landing at Oran on November 8 was the entry into the harbour. cutting through the boom which closed the entrance, of H.M. ships Walney and Hartland closely packed with British and American troops and seamen. The Wainey was to go right to the end of the harbour farthest from the entrance, and her troops were to seize the French Naval Headquarters there. The Hartland was to go alongside the first pier, the troops she carried were to silence the battery of 4.7in. guns at the entrance to the harbour, and the seamen were to secure the many merchant ships, to prevent the blocking of the harbour by their being scuttled. Neither object was achieved, since the defences proved to be alert and determined. Both ships, as has been announced, were sunk with heavy casualties. Two officers HMS Hartland, Lieutenant V.A. Hickson, R.N., the first lieutenant, and Lieutenant R. Billbrough, senior engi-

#### ON THIS DAY December 10, 1942

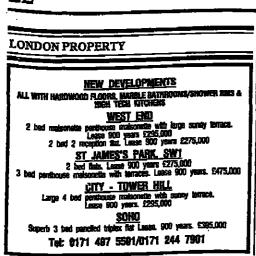
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In war, as in peace, failure can produce heroes just as easily as success. The attempted landing at Oran on the North African coast was an example.

neer officer, yesterday gave to Press representatives a vivid, personal account of their experiences, which was all the more impressive to their audience for the modesty of the narrators. The only trace of emotion in Mr. Hickson's narrative was when he was speaking of his captain's - Lieutenant-Commander G. P. Billot. R.N.R. - stead(ast determination, in spite of seven wounds. leaving him with but one eye and one arm available, first, to carry out the task allotted to his ship, and later, when she

was clearly sinking, not to leave until all his surviving men had been got away ... There was nothing to be done but abandon ship — except that the Chief Engine Room Artificer first crawled along to see how hot the magazine bulkhead was, before the vessel blew up. The captain demanded to be rowed out of the harbour so that he might be picked up by a British ship outside rather than be taken prisoner. But his wounds demanded early attention, and he was taken ashore.

"WE DIG, DIG, DIG" An R.A.F. officer, who had been interned in a camp in Algeria, told the following story after his release by allied forces: The camp ran a concert party. In one of its shows there was a turn based on the song, "We dig dig dig." from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The song was sung by the chorus, consisting of eight men. The camp commandant and other French officers in the audience were highly amused by the sketch. So were the internees, for at that time they were excavating a 70-yard escape tunnel, and while the concert was in progress all who could be spared were digging as hard as they could go.



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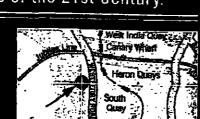
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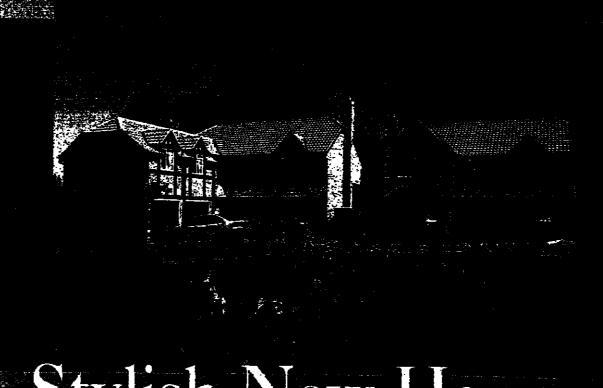
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Rachel Kelly finds that homes without doorsteps are no joking matter for the disabled, and explains a cradle-to-grave design concept

## The ultimate push-button 'smart' house unveiled

ome may have scoffed last week at news that new homes are to be built without doorsteps, but the need for houses "level thresholds" is a serious matter for John

Mr Reynolds, a builder, is the father of a grown-up disabled son and one of the driving forces behind a mouldbreaking house in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. From the outside, this Victorian terraced cottage is almost indistin-guishable from its neighbours. But the observant will notice the absence of a doorstep --essential for those who need to manoeuvre a wheelchair.

Inside is the ultimate "smart" house for the disabled. Windows open and doors close at the touch of a button. Kitchen worktops can be lowered. The bathroom has a hot-air body drier for those who cannot struggle with a towel. The bath can be filled to a predetermined level by pressing another button.

It sounds like a state-of-the art home for James Bond. In fact all of the devices on show are standard items of equipment that can help the disabled to live normal lives.

Mr Reynolds's son Christopher, who suffers from cerebral palsy, attended the local Rockley Mount School for the disabled. "We parents often talked about the need for a place where the children could. be independent, where they could go for the day to learn how to cook and wash up," says Mr Reynolds. "Eventually, we decided to buy a house and try to adapt it."

To that end they formed the Rockley House Trust with Mount School, Barnsley District General Hospital Barnsley Community and Priority Services NHS Frust and Barnsley Health Authority. Charities provided funds to buy a property, and the equipment was donated by manufacturers and suppliers.

- 74 ± ±1



Dr Mark Hawley (left) in one of three lifts inside the high-tech cottage in Barnsley

The house the trust chose was bought in 1994. A threebedroom cottage typical of the district was chosen rather than a a newly built bungalow farther from the children's existing homes.

members from Rockley If you become disabled, you are often required to move house whereas it might be better to stay near your friends and relatives," says Dr Mark Hawley of Barnsley District

"Most disabled people in Barnsley live in houses like this. We wanted to show what

is possible in a normal set-

The £140,000 cost of conversion was met by local charitable donations and a £10,000 donation from the Prince's Trust. Manufacturers were excited at the prospect of being able to show their products in a small domestic setting, and happy to work with the Rockley Trust.

The first problem was how to control the doors, lights, heating, and appliances such as washing machines and microwave ovens in a way that

LYSIA STREET SW6. A fabulous: dish bed good fir gdn flat, reck beneficing from side & ret

was easier than using standard switches. The answer was to combine a small laptop device - operated either manually or by moving the head — with building technology more usually used to control office

Laptop models such as the Possum travelling companion had previously been suitable only for use in one or two rooms. Thanks to the office building technology, provided by Siemens, a laptop can now control nearly all the equipment in the Barnsley house. It

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which is picked up by sensors in the ceiling. These transmit the messages to a receiver that activates the equipment.

There are other innovations. The kitchen sink, for example, has red and blue panels at the front instead of taps. There is a touch-control shower. The house's only failure is its inability to get beds and chairs to slide on command.

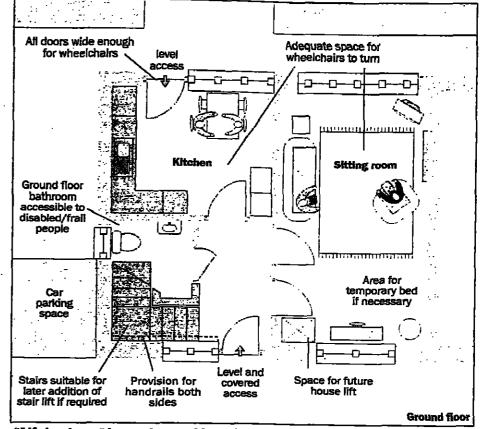
The house develops some of the ideas that define a "lifetime home". Such homes are not specifically developed for the disabled in the way that the Barnsley house was. Rather, they are designed to accommodate people's changing needs

The Joseph Rowntree Trust, the York-based housing chari-ty and think-tank, has developed 500 such homes, all with level thresholds, downstairs lavatories that can easily be changed into shower-rooms, and stairs wide enough to fit a stair-lift. Light switches and windows are low enough for children to reach, and the kitchen units are height-adjustable. Everything is easily adaptable if someone in the family becomes disabled.

he Barnsley house will open after Christ-mas for visits from disabled and elderly people keen to try out the technology. According to Nick Wilson, the headmaster of Rockley school, they will be able to try out rival stair-lift systems, for example, to see hich one suits them best.

"The house is unique in bringing together so much electronic technology for people with disabilities," says Dr Hawley. It shows that anybody with a physical disability, no matter how severe, can function here."

Christopher Reynolds has yet to visit the house. Thanks to some of the technology on show there, he is able to live independently in Lincoln - in a house with a level threshold.



"Lifetime home" innovations could one day feature in most new homes (not to scale)

#### Let the seller beware

ESTATE agents have joined forces with surveyors and auctioneers to press for the scrapping of the principle of caveat emptor, or "let the buyer beware", when purchasing property. Rachel Kelly writes.

Instead, the onus should be on sellers to provide evidence that their property is a sound buy, they say.

This radical step, over-throwing decades of established practice, is the first joint recommendation to the housing minister, Hilary Armstrong, from the National Association of Estate Agents, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and

At a meeting with the minister, who is reviewing the entire housebuying pro-cess, the three professional bodies this week argued that sellers should provide a

Calls to shift burden of

surveys to

home owners

survey, the deeds of the house, and a local authority search when they put their houses on the market. Michael Day of the RICS

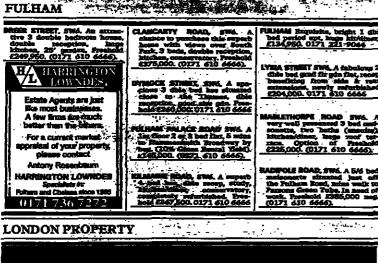
said: "When someone buys a new home, they normally receive all the necessary information from a developer. This ensures that transctions normally take less than a month."

Together the professional bodies represent about 40,000 members and are among those who have been invited to advise the minister. Government officials are monitoring individual

Mr Day said the change

of emphasis from buyer to seller would haive the average 13 weeks it takes to buy a house, and limit the scourge of gazumping.
"Sellers would have to

provide a mandatory 'log book' with a full structural survey, damp-proofing documents, evidence of building regulations approval on extensions, and evidence of servicing to central heating. people doing this at the





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for example," said Mr Day.
"There is nothing to stop moment, but most don't." He admitted that this

would add to the expense of selling, and ensure work for surveyors. The average price of a full survey on a three-bedroom terraced house is £400. "But most sellers are also buyers, so they would save the money when they buy," he said.

The results of the investigation are expected next

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OVERSEAS PROPERTY TO LET

## THE TIMES TODAY

#### NEWS

#### Spending on NHS will be capped

NHS spending will be strictly capped for the first time under sweeping White Paper proposals announced yesterday. They give GPs overall control of the £35 billion health budget with responsibility for spending on hospital and primary care.

A ten-year programme aims at abolishing the NHS internal market, phasing out GP fundholding, setting up a 24-hour help line, and guaranteeing a specialist appointment for anyone with suspected cancer within two weeks ... ...Page I

#### Race to find Branson's balloon

Military aircraft may have to shoot down Richard Branson's runaway 223ft balloon - a threat to aircraft - if the Virgin crew could not salvage it before dawn. Colder air had caused it to fall from the 60,000ft it achieved as it crossed the Atlas

#### Chancellor's adviser

Lord Irvine of Lairg became the special adviser when he appointed Garry Hart, a close friend of .. Pages I. 2

#### Blair in euro row

Tony Blair was heading for his first serious confrontation in Europe after insisting that Britain has a seat on a powerful new committee that will run the single ..... Page 2 currency...

#### Robinson accused

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, was accused by Tory MPs of neglecting ministerial duties because of an obsession with clearing his name ......Page 2

#### Runaway found

The bearded figure in Leicester Square looked like yet another down-and-out to Catherine Davies, whose son had been missing for 31 days. But there was something about the scarf ...... Page 5

Risk of race riots Police risk race riots because mistakes made with the black community are being repeated with a new generation of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, a Home Office report said ... ...Page 6

#### **Butchers' petition**

Butchers asked customers to sign a petition urging the Government to abandon its proposed beef-on-

#### Toyota's choice

France's long and secretive courtfirst Lord Chancellor to have a ship of Toyota Motor Corp reached the altar with the official announcement that the Japanese the Prime Minister, to the carmaker will site its new assembly plant there.....Page 7

#### **Detective apologises**

A retired detective apologised to the families of three murdered boys for wrongly suggesting that they had died during solvent ..Page 8

#### Kvoto rescue

An international rescue fund to help to save small island nations from rising sea levels was expected to be approved at the Kyoto

#### Swiss merger anger

The Swiss are bracing themselves for a winter of discontent after the merger of the country's two largest banks brought threats of a tough response from trade . Page 12 unionists.

#### Zimbabwe strike

Violence erupted in Harare between riot police and thousands of demonstrators as a strike paralysed Zimbabwe's government and private sectors ...... Page 13

#### Russian scandal

Russia's ruling elite was plunged into another potentially damaging corruption scandal after details emerged about secret bank accounts held by dozens of senior government figures ...... Page 14

#### Canal may be Britannia's final berth

■ The Royal Yacht Britannia may sail into a less dignified retirement than the Queen would wish, with a permanent berth on either the Manchester Ship Canal or at Leith Docks near Edinburgh. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, is expected to announce that eight serious bids for the 44-year-old vessel have been reduced to those two.....



Dame Cleo Laine, 70, the jazz singer, outside Buckingham Palace yesterday after receiving her DBE insignia from the Queen

#### BUSINESS

Aerospace pact: The formation of a single European aerospace company came a step closer as the Governments of Britain, France and Germany joined forces to encourage national aircraft manufacturers to merge...... Page 25, 27

House prices: The Nationwide Building Society predicts UK house prices will rise by 7 per cent in 1998, a marked slowdown on this year's 12 per cent increase.....Page 25

Pru succumbs: Prudential Corporation has bowed to Treasury pressure and agreed to join the watchdog Personal Investment Authority ...... ..... Pages 25, 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 10.3 to 5,177.1. The pound rose to 104.1. falling to \$1.6456 and rising to DM2.9529 .... ..Page 28

#### Football: Manchester United are aiming for a sixth successive win in the European Champions League when they take on Juventus in the Stadio delle Alpi.. ... Page 44

SPORT

Rugby union: Cambridge beat Oxford 29-17 in the Varsity match at Twickenham, their fourth successive victory. Paul Surridge, the Cambridge full back, scored 14

Racing: The Maktoum brothers, the world's most powerful racing family, signalled their intention to pull out of British racing unless there was a dramatic change in its finances... ... Page 48

Cricket: MCC's general committee decides today whether to recommend that women should be eligible to join the club ...... Page 48

sunny spells and occasional showers.

damp this morning but drier and

brighter this afternoon. Northern Scot-

land will have sunny spells and a few showers. Wet everywhere tonight.

□ London, SE England, Cent S England, Midlends, Cent N Eng-land: early rain followed by drier and brighter weather. Fresh SW wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ E Anglia, E England: rain grad-ually clearing, then brighter in after-noon. Fresh to strong SW wind. Max

#### D-day: The Arts Council faces its most difficult decision: whether to approve in whole, or in part, a £113 million grant to London's South

ARTS.

Bank Centre ... True stories: Stage and screen love to portray journalists as champions of good over evil, more cunning than a fox and wittier than Woody Allen. The truth is rather

... Page 37 Criminal tales: The British have always been suckers for a gentleman criminal and Howard Marks is one of the finest. Now he is regaling us in a one-man ...Page 37

Dance debut: English National Ballet unveils a new Nutcracker to celebrate its move to the Coliseum for Christmas ......Page 38

#### **TOMORROW** IN THE TIMES

**■** FILMS A Bond for the Nineties? Pierce Brosnan talks about

#### **■ BOOKS**

erotic art; Sheila Rowbotham on two pioneers of feminism

Home birth: Sarah Johnson found unexpected benefits to giving birth at home. It was relaxing, happy -and no stranger could have taken Nigella Lawson: Why I side with

the vulgar mob over Myra Hindley; fat can be good for you; Mammon's message ..... .... Page 17 Wasted lives: Bose Mbah's writer husband is in a Nigerian jail, sentenced to 15 years. Now she, too, is a

Smart houses: Rachel Kelly examines a cradle-to-grave design philosophy...

Digital disaster: A special report on the computer danger facing industry and Government as the millennium nears....

#### The Government's action in closing 56 of 58 suspended finance com-

panies was decisive, painful and necessary - The Bangkok Post This is a step backward in order to go forward. There will be tough times ahead but Thai people have gone through thick and thin before — Thai Rath

What happened was just the beginning of the painful process the Government must undertake. The futures of many people hang in the balance

preview: A great jockey, but why is Lester Piggott so distiked? Secret Lives (Channel 4. 9pm). Review Matthew Bond sings the praises of ... Pages 46, 47 Mike Reid.....

#### OPPHINE. Building on Bevan

The Government believes its no forms forestall the need for a more radical examination of NHS fund. ing ... But this White Paper will not be the final word ...... Page 19

#### Home alone

When so much needs to be done in welfare reform, it is a shame the Government has not started with proposals easier to justify than

#### those for lone mothers..... Page 19 The jet stream bubble

As with sailing, venturing off the land into an alien element presents natural risks. Balloons seem peopliarly vulnerable ...... Page 19

#### PETER RIDDELL

There is a close parallel between government approaches to health and to schools - an emphasis on local professionals ..... . Page 1 SIMON JENKINS

Geoffrey Robinson is a Blair courtier with lots of money, a good job, a well-provided family and hooses in Tuscany and France. In years to come, he may need all the help f can give him RICHARD BURGE

#### There is no reason why museums, galleries and theatres should not be

#### able to dispense completely with the government grant...... Page 18 ALAN COREN

The iffiest of all calling cards are the invitations to alternative therapies. These do not merely pong, they quack ... ...Page 18 **SIMON BARNES** 

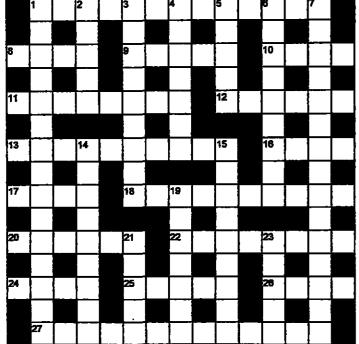
#### It really is the most perfect of all sport's pleasures. It is the moment when the script goes wrong . . . and sport goes spiralling off into the wild new wander.....

Brigadier E.C.W. Myers, hero of wartime resistance in Greece; Allen Wright, theatre critic; Barba-

ra, French singer ......Page 21

Labour tax plans; minimum wage: Gibraltar, Maxwell and Robinson; - The Nation | climate change ......

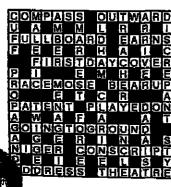
#### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,659



#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Splendid novel read by everyone? (5,3,5).
- 8 Bitter person finally changes sides (4).
- 9 Crib first son's born in (5).
- 10 Mum is stuck on Dad that's 11 One preserving me in marble
- 2 12 Prior to course at Oxford, pass the
- 13 Go by rail to resort? It might be necessary (10).
- 16 Major incident when tail falls off plane (4).
- 17 I'd finally got thrown off a wild
- borse (4).
- 18 Top celebrities have out of this world, heavenly bodies (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,658



#### 20 A fine metal case for Oriental

- 22 Forward thinking (8).
- 24 Tax upon new drivers (4).
- 25 All the players scored (5).
- 26 Primate not finished with good port (4).
- 27 Declaration made by man in spring to intended in speech (13).

- 1 So-called wolf pack? (10,5).
- 2 Courts can be a lot of trouble (5). 3 Cause bridge opponents mostly to arrive at no bid (9).
- 4 Stop me getting up and save energy (7). 5 Drank port, say, and had some
- beef, we hear (5). 6 Show that's on now (9).
- 7 A magic show? The opposite. perhaps (12,3).
- 14 Big limo or convertible in complicated pile-up (9). 15 Sort of pudding bowls to employ
- 19 One path laid out specially for carriage (7). 21 The same song, but with a
- different ending (5). 23 Sweet talking native of North
- America (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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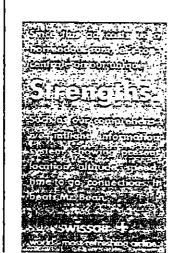
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HEST & LOWEST





#### Tomorrow Never Dies

different.

Jeanette Winterson on 🐇 🛪

## General: England and Wales will start wet but rain should quickly move

☐ Lake District, NE England: cloudy and wet. Drier by evening. Gusty SW wind easing later. Max 13C (55F). away northeast. That will leave much of the day mild and blustery with brief ☐ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll: dull and wet with mist on hills. Winds fresh SW Northern Ireland will also start duli with spells of rain, but should soon become backing NW and easing later. Max 11C Southern Scotland will be dull and

☐ Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: some brighter spells but chilly and perhaps one or two afternoon showers. Winds light to moderate and cyclonic. Max 10C

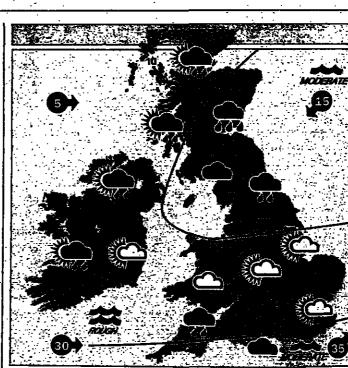
□ NW Scotland: cloudy with a few showers, becoming more isolated later. Moderate WNW wind, backing SW later. Max 10C (50F). ☐ Republic of Ireland: mainly dry after early rain in N. More rain from W later. Wind SW, fresh, locally gale in S.

☐ Outlook: unsettled with more rain. but a ridge of high pressure will bring drier, colder weather with night frosts

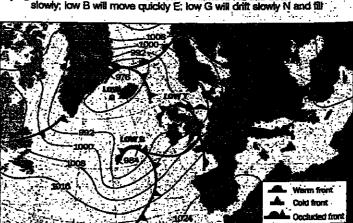
☐ Channel Isles, SW England, Wates, NW England, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: rain quickly clearing to leave occasional sho SW wind, Max 14C (57F). on Friday.

0.06 0.03 0.27 0.51 0.02 0.25 0.01 0.07 0.27

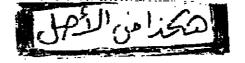
Malage Meth'm Medoo Mismi Misman Moscom Munich N Delhi N York Nairobi Napies Hice Calo Peris Peting Perin de Frague Reykjaul 



Changes to chart below from noon: low Y will move NE into Scandinavia and fill



PM 22.03 21.40 15.05 19.00 14.51 13.27 19.24 19.52 12.58 20.42 14.33 14.40 10,33 06,57 04,54 07,23 01,42 00,09 02,13 07,26 06,49 01,48 01,48 07,00 PM 2251 19251 1757 2018 1416 1316 14241 1443 1948 1948 1948 1945 1421 Avernouth
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forecast

4: 111

**INSIDE SECTION TODAY** 



**BUSINESS** 

High-flyers cleared for take-off PAGE 29



**FOCUS** 

of new orders for airliners, started with

just French and German backing in 1970.

It is now 37.9 per cent owned by

Aerospatiale of France, 37.9 per cent by

Dasa of Germany. 20 per cent by British

The millennium time bomb in our computer systems **PAGES 30-33** 



**SPORT** 

Cole aiming to strike rich seam in Italy **PAGES 42-48** 

**TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES** 

46-47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10 1997** 

## Governments sanction aerospace and defence integration Shake-up to spur BAe and GEC



......

BRITISH AEROSPACE and GEC are poised to be at the centre of a giant restructuring of the European defence aerospace industries sanctioned yesterday by the British, French and German

Governments. The European aerospace and defence electronics indus-try was told to come up with "a ear plan and detailed timetable" for integration by March

statement issued by Tony Blair: Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister: Jacques Chirac, the French President; and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

The politicians also called for swift progress towards restructuring Airbus, the com-

AIRBUS Industrie, likely to be the centre of the aerospace and defence electronics restructuring in Europe, is already aiming to reinvent itself by 1999. The operation is to become a limited company before a possible float. Lehman Brothers, the US investment bank, has valued it at between £9 billion and £12 billion. The consortium.

mercial aircraft consortium owned by British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France, Dasa of Germany and Casa of Spain, as a single company. At NatWest Markets, ana-

lysts believe that consolidation could add between £4 and £5 to the value of BAe shares, just from the savings on the Eurofighter project. BAe shares closed up 73p at £17.68. Both Sir Richard Evans. chief executive of British Aerospace, and Lord Simpson of

Aerospace and 4.2 per cent by Casa of Spain. As it has been growing from a Dunkeld, managing director of GEC, welcomed the announcement. However a GEC spokesman pointed out that European companies may also seek US alliances. GEC is

In the UK, the statement was released jointly by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary. Mr Robertson repeated his belief that the European

looking for buying opportuni-

industry must "rationalise or die". He said: "National solutions are not always going to

Mrs Beckett would not say whether it meant she would block a possible merger between BAe and GEC. nor would she say what sanctions might be used against companies who did not come up with proposals by the March

In France, Alain Richard,

to avoid the production problems that have dogged Boeing during the current boom in orders. This week Airbus said it is definitely going ahead with two new versions of its A340, bringing up to £2.4 billion of orders to Rolls-Royce, whose engines are powering the planes.

much smaller base, Airbus has managed

of the possibilities for the restructuring was a single. quoted Airbus company. Aerospatiale, which owns 37.9 per cent of Airbus, is stateowned and had been seen by some as a barrier to comprerestructuring. In Bonn, Sighart Nehring, an official in Helmut Kohl's office, said: "It would be desir-

able to have one company." European aerospace com panies, led by BAe, are already exploring restructuring

Matra are allied in missiles. while the French have also been forming a defence electronics grouping around Thomson-CSF.

NatWest analysts thought it likely that defence electronics companies would continue to consolidate separately amund the Thomson-CSF grouping, with the possibility of future

inclusion in a wider company. The ownership of any merged aerospace company would be a likely source of friction between the European participants. The likes of British Aerospace and Dasa are

more efficient than the stateowned Aerospatiale and could demand recognition of this in

Commentary, page 27

#### **BUSINESS TODAY**

STOCK MARKET INDICES

Dow Jones ....... 8098.65 (-12 19)\* S&P Composite 981.10 (-1.27)\*

LONDON MONEY

SSS DOLLAR

London close ..... \$283.65 (\$287.85)

Berkeley hit

Strong results from Berkeley Group, the residential prevent a sharp fall in the price of its shares yesterday.

Page 26. Tempus 28 Scotia departure

David Horrobin has made a surprise decision to give up his job as chief executive of Scotia Holdings, the unconventional drugdevelopment company that he founded nearly 20 years

## Nationwide forecasts cut in house price growth

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

poised to slow sharply next year as interest rate rises start to bite and more properties come on to the market, the Nationwide Building Society said yesterday.

The Nationwide predicted that UK house prices will rise hy an average of 7 per cent next year compared with 12 per cent growth in 1997.

The new forecast came as

#### Gold price slumps to 18-year low

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

GOLD prices slumped to an 18-year low as fears of a mass sale of bullion by central banks continued to cloud the market.
Gold\_bullion fixed at

\$283.25 (£169) an ounce in afternoon trading yesterday, its lowest price since August 1979. Gold prices have now fallen nearly \$90 an ounce this year. But analysts predicted

that prices are set to plummet further with few signs that producers are prepared to make dramatic cuts in production to compensate for the central bank gold flooding onto the market.

The Argentine central bank precipitated the latest round of price falls after revealing last week that it had disposed of its entire gold reserves. The threat of a gradual sale of gold reserves by leading central banks, including Switzer-land, has been the main cause of the price falls.

retail prices data showed the annual rate of inflation remained static in November further easing the pressure on the Bank of England to raise

Central London, in particu-

localised booms.

inflation was unchanged at 2.8 per cent in November, while the stayed static at 3.7 per cent.

mental inflation picture looks

Paul Sanderson, head of Na-

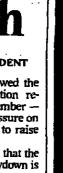
tionwide research, said house price rises could now be past their peak but the "modest recovery" should have further to go especially in areas that have so far not benefited from

measure of 2.5 per cent.

The annual rate of underlying

headline rate of inflation also

But Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, said the high headline inflation could increase wage pressures and send the retail prices index

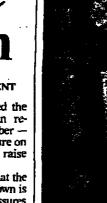


The Nationwide said that the expected economic slowdown is likely to ease price pressures next year especially in London and the South East where rises

lar, has seen prices rise by up to 40 per cent as local "bottle-necks" have developed because of a shortage of saleable property. But the Nationwide predicts that transactions will grow by around 5 per cent to just over 1.5 million next year as more property becomes available.

Economists yesterday gave a broad welcome to the latest inflation figures although underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, remains stubbornly above the Government's target

Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said:
"With the strong pound still exerting downward pressure on costs and demand showing signs of softening, the funda-



Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi investor, who is being pressed to complete a £250 million deal with Lonrho after talks lasting almost a year

#### Lonrho steps up pressure for hotel deal By Jason Nissé

and Dominic Walsh LONRHO is putting pressure on Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi investor, to complete the £250 million pur-

chase of Princess hotels. The British conglomerate has said it will put the chain of luxury hotels back on the market. Starwood Lodging. the US group that recently bought IIT, owner of Sheraton Hotels, is thought to have

expressed an interest. The Prince has been in talks with Lonrho for most of this year, has completed his due diligence and was given signed documentation by Lonrho last week. Lonrho hopes a deal can be concluded in the next few days but told the Prince that it would circulate sale memorandums if there is no progress.

Lourho is also moving to-

wards a £450 million deal to buy JCI, the South African mining group. Mzi Khumalo, chairman of JCI, confirmed the talks yesterday.

Radical blow, page 29

#### Matthew Clark shares tumble after warning

BY DOMINIC WALSH

MATTHEW CLARK lost more than 20 per cent of its market value yesterday as the troubled cidermaker gave warning that disappointing pre-Christmas trading meant that it was unlikely to meet full-year profit forecasts.

Peter Aikens, chief executive, said: "We would normally ex-pect to see 35-40 per cent of our gross profit going out in Octo-ber and November. But this year will be something like 10 per cent down on that, and we haven really seen any sparks of life yet in December." The shares dived 4612p to 18312p.

The warning came as the group, still recovering from the effect of alcopops on cider sales, reported an 18 per cent drop in profit before tax to £17.7 million in the half year to October 31, from turnover 7 per cent lower at £272.9 million. Earnings per share were down 15 per cent to

Mr Aikens said the cider market had yet to return to growth, though he expressed confidence that the increased investment being pumped into advertising would begin to have an impact in the second half. Volumes declined by 14 per cent, with packaged sales suffering from the rise in duty imposed on high-strength ciders such as Diamond White

in October 1996. The group's non-cider division, which includes QC sherry and Stone's Ginger Wine, saw a 5 per cent dip in profits to £9.8 million after a rise in advertising spend.

There was consolation from its drinks wholesaling division, which improved operat-ing profits 29 per cent to £4 million after rationalisation.

Tempus, page 28

## Prudential persuaded to join PIA



Davis: "anomalous position"

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Prudential has bowed to Treasury pressure and agreed to join the Personal Investment Authority (PIA). The Prudential, which three years

ago chose to be regulated by the Securities and Investments Board (SJB), has come under increasing attack in the past few months over its regulatory position. Regulation by the SIB rather than the PIA spared it from being fined for regulatory infringements. Both regulators are in the process of being subsumed into the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The company has been struggling to

compensate thousands of customers

who were mis-sold personal pensions. It has missed two deadlines for offering compensation to the most high-priority cases. Other PIAauthorised companies, which have far fewer mis-selling cases, such as Albany Life and Friends Provident, have been

fined six-figure sums by the PIA.

The Prudential has been criticised by Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, over its progress in paying compensation. Prudential yesterday said it had not been forced to ioin the PIA by the Treasury. Sir Peter Davis, Prudential chief executive, said: "We are in the anoma-

lous position of being the only life

insurance company in the UK not

regulated by the PIA. I have discussed regulatory arrangements with Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA. He and I agree it would be right to change these arrangements." Mick Newmarch, Prudential's con-

troversial former chief executive, had insisted on regulation by the SIB, because he believed self-regulation did not work. The PlA yesterday also announced the appointment of Roger Bright as

vision and authorisation division.

Commentary, page 27





#### Small rise for Energis on debut

Shares in Energis, the telecommunications company, ended the first day of trading at 292p yesterday. against the offer price of 290p.

The business has been demerged from National Grid, which will net proceeds of £203 million from the flotation while retain-

ing a 74.3 per cent interest. More than 9.4 million shares were traded and the share price initially rose to 2974 p before falling back.

#### BSS advance

BSS Group, the distributor of heating, plumbing and pipeline products, lifted pre-tax profits to £7 million (£6.1 million) in the half year to September 30. Turnover fell to £159.2 million (£164.7 million). The interim dividend rises to 7p a share (6.5p). payable from earnings of 17.7p a share (14.7p).

#### Eurocopy fall

Eurocopy has cut the total dividend to 2.43p (2.64p) a share, with a final 1.5p. after reporting a fall in pretax profits to £4.47 million (£4.78 million) in the year to September 30. Earnings fell to 6.06p (6.47p) a share. The shares held at 29p.

#### Oil change

Burmah Castrol, the lubricants group whose brands include Castrol GTX, said it was reorganising its Castrol businesses into a global operation with the loss of 20 senior managers. The move will mostly affect jobs in North America.



Tony Pidgley unveiled strong results at Berkeley, where Far East purchasers account for a quarter of forward sales

## Berkeley shares shaken despite profits surge

STRONG results from Berkeley Group, the highly regarded residential developer, were not enough to prevent a sharp fall in its share price yesterday.

The shares fell 21p to 641'2p

on fears that sales of the company's upmarket homes may be hit by the economic problems in the Far East. A quarter of Berkeley's forward sales, worth more than £130 million, are agreed with purchasers from the Far East. Most of these are for London homes where higher prices are believed to produce substantially better profits for the company.

Analysts are forecasting Berkeley will make £95 million or more this year, and up to E119 million in the next financial year, but believe its rapid growth may then slow.

Tony Pidgley, Berkeley's chief executive, reported a 46 per cent increase in first-half profits to £43.9 million. With sales in the six months to October 31 rising 35 per cent to £274 million, this represented an improved profit margin of 16 per cent. Some analysts fear rising

land prices will put margins under pressure. But Berkeley believes the more complicated developments it takes on -

often involving substantial planning work - protect it from the worst effects of land price inflation.

A higher number of flat sales increased unit sales in the half from 946 to 1,563, but reduced average selling prices from £210,000 to £177,000.

Berkeley said its reserva-

tions last month were another record, despite signs of slackening demand in the housing market, Graham Roper, chairman, said Berkeley's strong forward sales "gives us every confidence for the current year and beyond". Since recently raising £125

million in a deeply discounted rights issue. Berkeley has agreed £50 million of land purchases, including the acquisition of a 32-acre site on the north bank of the River Thames between Wandsworth

Bridge and Chelsea Harbour. The company will pay an interim dividend of 2.65p a share on February 9. Although this is a 6 per cent improvement on last year's 2.5p payment, Berkeley said it represents a 10.9 per cent rise after adjusting for the rights

#### New round in RJB and **PowerGen** coal talks

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RIB MINING yesterday held further talks with PowerGen. the UK's second biggest generator, in the protracted negotiations over new coal contracts.

RJB declined to comment on the threat made this week by The Energy Group that it could scrap deals to buy RJB coal unless it got clarification from the Government over the recent moratorium on gasfired power stations.

The Energy Group said it had nothing yet to add on comments by John Devaney, chief executive, that he may not sign the contracts with RJB for 20 million tonnes of

coal over five years.

The lengthy talks between PowerGen and RJB continue amid speculation that the gen-erator is holding out for Government agreement that it will be able to buy a regional

electricity company. The Government has asked the three main coal-burning generators to buy extra coal and boost the market for the UK industry, which could face up to eight pit closures and 5,000 job losses. It is believed to have indicated a role for the generators in energy policy.

Industry insiders believe that PowerGen, which has made very hawkish comments about its requirements for RJB coal, has opt-out clauses on some of its import arrangements which could be exercised to buy UK coal.

PowerGen wants RJB to cut its price by 15 per cent. Last week RJB told union leaders it wanted to push through a cost-

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

#### Hiscox in £44m bid for Lloyd's group

HISCOX, which manages Lloyd's syndicates, is making a recommended E44 million offer for Hiscox Select, one of the new breed of Lloyd's limited liability investment vehicles. The offer values each Select share at 146.6p and represents a premium of nearly 30 per cent on Monday's closing price of 113p a Select share. The shares rose 29p to 142p

14.4 14.5 14.5

40 No 🗸

4.4

275

yesterday. Shares in Hiscox were unchanged at 190p. Shareholders will be offered 118 new Hiscox shares and E69 in cash for every 200 Select shares. Holders of Select loan stock will be offered a straight swap into Hiscox notes, but have the option of converting into Select shares, potentially increasing the value of the deal to a maximum of £55.5 million. Hiscox has received acceptances in respect of 25.3 per cent of the shares from parties including the Benfield & Rea Investment Trust, which owns 17 per cent of Select.

#### BT in Irish venture

BT is to form a joint venture with the Electricity Supply Board of Ireland to offer telecommunications services in the Republic of Ireland. The new company, which will be a 50-50 joint venture between BT and ESBI Telecoms, ESB's telecoms investment unit, will have access to the electricity group's overhead cables and ducts. The network will be linked to the BT system. About £75 million will be invested in the venture in its first five years, growing to £130 million

#### **Anglian Group ahead**

WINDFALL profits from building society flotations contributed strongly to a 20 per cent advance in pre-tax profits, to £11.4 million, at Anglian Group, the home improvements company, in the half-year to September 27. Turnover on continuing operations rose 13 per cent to £117.4 million. David Perry, chairman, said it was not clear yet if trading in the second half would be affected by the absence of further windfall payments. Interim earnings rose 20 per cent, to 8.7p a share, and the interim dividend is up 11 per cent to 4p.

#### **Record for Fuller Smith**

FULLER SMITH & TURNER, the brewer and pub operator, yesterday reported record interim profits on the back of rising beer volumes and investment in its retail estate. Pre-tax profits rose 16.3 per cent to £6.06 million in the six months to September 27 on turnover up 12.5 per cent to £55.6 million. Earnings per share rose 16.1 per cent to 16.73p. Anthony Fuller, chairman, said a £1 million advertising campaign had helped to lift beer volumes by 12 per cent. The interim dividend, payable on January 16, rises 16 per cent to 3.60p (A and C shares) and 0.36p (B share).

#### Victrex lifts final payout

VICTREX, the manufacturer and distributor of polymers, blamed a fall in pre-tax profits to £11.8 million from £12.9 million in the year to September 30 on the strength of the pound and higher costs from increased manufacturing capacity. Turnover rose 14 per cent, to £43.4 million, with volumes up 40 per cent in the second half, compared with the previous year. Although earnings fell to II.lp a share from 11.90, the total dividend is lifted to 4.80 a share from 4.5p "in the light of the strong performance in the second half".

#### Halma cheers City

SHARES of Halma rose 16p to 1182 p after the environmental engineering group reported a 10 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £18.7 million in the six months to September 27, ahead of City expectations. Earnings rose 11 per cent to 3.56p a share and the interim dividend is lifted 20 per cent to 1.09p. The company said the results would have been materially better but for the continued effect of the strong sterling

#### 3i bids for Baronsmead

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

3i, the venture capital providble acceptances from 52.5 per er, has swooped on Baronscent of Baronsmead shareholders, although its offer mead, a small underperforming investment trust, with a surprise £19.7 million undervalues the trust's assets by 15 per cent. It needs 90 per

cent to proceed. Its cash offer of 115p for each A spokesman for 3i, which, Baronsmead share and 22p with £5 billion of funds under for each warrant beats a bid management, controls a fifth made by another venture capiof all venture capital investtal trust, Dunedin Enterprise ment in the UK, said the Investment Trust, at the end of group had no intention of bidding for other trusts. How-3i said that it had irrevocaever, the opportunity to buy a

portfolio at a 15 per cent discount did not arise frequently and had been too good

to ignore. Clive Parritt, Baronsmead chairman, said the board had considered four offers, including one involving co-director Jeremy Coller, since rejecting Dunedin. 3i's bid offered shareholders the best in terms of value and liquidity, he said.

Tempus, page 28

#### Cable's 'double' forecast

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE Cable Communications Association yesterday forecast that the number of cabled homes in the UK would double by the millennium after the industry celebrated its best ever quarter.

Official figures from the Independent Television Commision showed that 3.25 million homes were connected to modern cable networks at the start of October, compared with 2.33 million a year ago. while the total number of homes with cable telephone broke the three million barrier for the first time to reach 3.1 million. The percentage of those tak-

ing at least one cable service - compared with those reached by the cable network rose to a high of 32.4 per cent. The percentage of those taking cable television was, however, static at 21.8 per cent.

Bob Frost, chief executive of the CCA, said yesterday: "It

took cable companies 14 years to connect their first two million homes. The third million has taken just 14 months and the rate of growth is increasing every day."

In the past year cable comp-

anies have installed more than a million new telephone lines, at a record rate of 90,249 lines a month. Cable television subscriptions grew 563,186 — an average of 47,000

## 130,000 bisinesses now: use: our telephone service.

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#### Ofwat criticised over measure of shortages

THE risk of water shortages the National Audit Office has

pending watchdog also calls

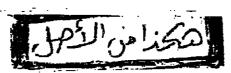
that he has relied on compar er than absolute standards.

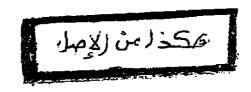
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Belgium Fr	63.98	59.02	New Zestend \$	2.91	2.6
Canada \$	2.463	2.275	Norway Kr	12.54	11.6
Cyprus Cyp£ .	0.907	0.835	Portugal Esc	313.30	291.0
Denmark Kr	11.80	10.91	S Africa Rd	8.73	7.7
Finland Milds	9.44	8.69	Spein Pta	280.29	241.5
France Fr	10.33	9,55	Sweden Kr	13.66	12.5
Germany Dm .	3.11	2.87	Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.3
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#### LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES





sir Peter Davis has gra-ciously agreed to bring the Prudential back to the fold of regulatory respectability. With isas soon to be sold to the nation's savers and the Government planning to push more pensions and health insurance towards the private sector, this is no time to be on the outside,

Howard Davies, now busily reshaping the regulation of financial services under his Financial Services Authority umbrella, has made clear his wish to bring the Pru into line. Subjecting the Prudential to the scrutiny of the Personal Investment Authority is a gesture of good intent that Sir Peter can well afford to make. If his organisation does not improve its lamentable performance on clearing up the debris from its mis-selling of personal pensions, he could face a hefty membership fee, for, as it heads heads towards extinction, the PIA is gaining a taste for levying fines. But, as Sir Peter will be well aware, it cannot charge retrospectively, so the Pru's failure to meet previous deadlines will go unpunished, save for the "naming and sharming" efforts of the Treasury Minister, Helen

in the same of the

The Alley

The state of the s

Her verbal chastisements may have been partially responsible for persuading Sir Peter to go on national television and apologise, in the mode pioneered by

## Sir Peter does the prudent thing

the Prime Minister. At least he had the grace to abstain from the I'm a good bloke, you can trust honest Pete," routine.

But those organisations which have been fined by the PIA have become increasingly irrate that the Pru, one of the worst offenders in the pensions debacle should have escaped with a mea culpa rather than hard cash.

This was the legacy of the irrascible Mick Newmarch, the former Pru chief executive. In 1994, when the PIA was being set up, he refused to join because of his philosophical objections to self-regulation. Newmarch had been at the Pru all his working life so his fears were grounded in experience. Those still waiting for compensation for their missold pensions can testify to just how right he was. The immoveable Newmarch

insisted that the Pru reported solely to the Securities & Investments Board, not the PIA. The ironic result has been that the financial services industry. including the Pru, put on a massive demonstration of its



meant the Pru escaped the fines. No wonder he is now being quietly invited back into the City. Already installed as chairman of Bourne End, a small property company, accountants Price Waterhouse recently signed him up as a consultant to their Shareholder Value Services, which claims to advise clients on maximising shareholder value.

#### **EU plans French** defence giant

ithout a shot being fired or a euro changing hands, the first part of the French plan to take control of Britain's most successful manufacturing industry has been accomplished. Britain's unworldly ministers, along with inability to treat customers fairly their German counterparts, have but Newmarch's prescience told their private sector firms to

prepare plans to merge with France's state player in an "equal

partnership' The model for this is to be a fully corporate version of Airbus, the French-designed and French headquartered consortium built round France's state-owned Aerospatiale. France has aiready put forward Noël Forgeard. managing director of France's Matra, to become boss of the much-expanded Airbus.

Quite how the equal partner-ship would work formally is not yet clear. The key, however, is that the French Government intends to retain full control of Aerospatiale as it has rightly

made clear from the start. Starry-eyed Brits, who want this scheme to prove their eurocredentials, said nothing of the inevitable French dominance. Norbert Lammert, Germany's aviation minister, claimed piously that French state control is

now "less heavy-handed". Such wish-fulfilling flannel does not wash with everyone. The French private sector is made of sterner stuff, as it showed over Credit Lyonnais. Dassault refuses to merge with Aerospatiale while the latter is under state control. So as George Robertson offered UK companies a choice between urgent action or rapid demise, his French counterpart said that merging defence sectors into mega-Airbus will

just have to wait. Britain should not countenance any EU defence grouping with a lop-sided French state interest. Nor should it allow a pan-European deal before UK interests have been strengthened by putting together GEC-Mar-con and BAe (along with GKN and Roll-Rovce). But intransigent French insistence on hegemony over all joint enterprises pales beside the Anglo-Saxon ego. This winning UK industry will probably be gift-wrapped and handed over before Sir Richard Evans and Lord Sir Property which provides an agree which provides the page 18 p son can agree which would call the shots at a merged GEC-BAe.

#### Safeway back on the shopping list

The triumphant terms on which Tesco has brought a which Tesco has prought a halt to its French adventure underline the strength of the top team at the grocer's Cheshunt headquarters and stimulate unflattering comparisons of its rivals.

sons with some of its rivals.

The £253 million deal sees Tesco selling at what must be near the top of the market. Faced with the choice of paying top franc itself to gain worthwhile scale or letting others pay for that privilege. Tesos decided to exit. Lord MacLaurin groomed his successors carefully and would have been proud of their decision.

But while chief executive Terry Leahy is building on the strength

that MacLaurin created. Safeway continues to look vulnerable. The chaps Sir Alistair Grant has left minding the shop may not have the toughness of the grocery business sufficiently embedded in them. Yesterday the rumours that Asda, a far more aggressive that Asda, a far more aggressive animal, may be planning a hostile bid were in the market once more. Asda denies the story. insisting that the merger talks between the two are not going to be resurrected because Mrs

3 1

Beckett might object.
Nonetheless, Asda would like to get its claws on the larger stores in the Saleway portfolio. A carve up of the Saleway business would upset Molly, simpering star of the chain's commercials. but customers would probably not grieve for too long.

#### Playing tag

THE vast Bluewater Park shop-ping centre being built near Dartford is already 70 per cent let and is promising to bring a welcome financial bonus to Blue Circle, which owned the site. More than E50 million could cascade towards the company if rents pour in as planned. But there will be other beneficiaries, including the makers of electronic tagging devices. Children visiting the centre will be tagged to avoid escape.

**Profits** 

sink at

Hozelock

HEAVY rainfall, the strong pound and contin-

ued hosepipe bans have all caused headaches for Hozelock, the garden

equipment manufacturer.

which yesterday reported

a 27 per cent plunge in pre-

tax profits for the year to September 27 from £9.8

million to E7.1 million

from 551p last year to a low

of 280p after the wettest

June this century. They

were unchanged yesterday

at 316p. Hozelock said it had

ended the year on a more

positive noie, with sales up

by 3.1 per cent from £51

by 26 per cent to 20.1p (27.2p) and a final dividend

of 7.9p will be paid on

total to 11.3 (11p).

million to £52.6 million. Earnings per share fell

(Chris Ayres writes). The company's shares have also suffered, falling

## \* Scotia Holdings founder quits in surprise move

By Paul Durman

made a surprise decision to give up his job as chief executive of Scotta Holdings. the unconventional drug-development company that he founded nearly 20 years ago.

Sherri Clarkson, Dr Horrobin's wife and head of Scotia's drug-discovery division, is also leaving, along with Jeff Boily, who was responsible for worldwide commercial operations.

Dr Horrobin plans to pay Scotia an initial £1 million to take on several early-stage projects in schizophrenia and

Dr Horrobin's decision to leave comes barely three months after Robert Dow joined Scotia as its medical and development director. Dr wide head of development at Roche, one of the world's

DAVID HORROBIN has largest pharmaceutical oups. He will replace Dr Horrobin as chief executive.

Dr Horrobin, 58, said that he had not come under any pressure to leave and simply wanted to spend more time on research and development.

He said: "I want to start again and build something up again. Everybody would say that I am extremely good at R&D but that I do not have any special management

Scotia is unusual for its emphasis on the fatty molecules known as lipids. In spite of its small size - with 400 employees and annual sales running at about £20 million - the company's operations are widely spread, with facilities in Carlisle, Stirling, Nova

even on the Isle of Lewis. Dr Horrobin has steered



Horrobin: research aim

several lipid-based products through full clinical trials but has found it more difficult to secure marketing approvals.

cy turned down approval of Tarabetic, the company's treatment for the nerve damage caused by diabetes.

Subject to shareholders' approval. Scotia intends to grant Dr Horrobin the rights to develop up to 15 compounds from the company's technology in the fields of psychiatry, the central nervous system and asthma.

Scotia will retain royalty rights to the potential products, and could also receive other payments totalling up to £41 million if all 15 products are developed.

Dr Horrobin plans to sell some of his family trust's interest in 13.1 million shares (worth about £54 million yesterday) to finance his new venture. He has agreed to retain at least nine million shares for a year. He will earlier this year when the tor of Scotia, and continue to UK's Medicines Control Agen- act as a consultant on patents.

#### Vaux rises as Swallow soars

SWALLOW HOTELS was once again the star performer as Vaux, the brewing and leisure group, reported a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £38.3 million for the year to the end of September (Dominic Walsh writes).

Profits at Swallow were up 16.6 per cent to £28 million as average room occupancy rose from 71.7 to 73.5 per cent and the room rate climbed 8 per cent to

Managed houses raised profits 9.6 per cent to £9.8 million while tenancies dipped 8.2 per cent to £11.8 million on a reduction in

pub numbers. Brewing and wholesaling was up 6.8 per cent to £4.8

Earnings per share were up 11.7 per cent to 23.4p and the final dividend, payable making 11.1p. up from 10.6p.

#### **Compass turns** to strategy of organic growth

By Dominic Walsh

FRANCIS MACKAY, chief executive of Compass Group. the contract catering company, yesterday ruled out further big acquisitions and vowed to pursue significant organic growth.

After a year in which Compass acquired Daka International of the US and leapt to third in the French market with the purchase of SHRM. Mr Mackay said: "We're moving away from the big acquisition and looking at gripping what we've got."

His comments came as the group reported a 20 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptionals to E137.2 million from turnover 40 per cent ahead at £3.7 billion. UK operating profits were 17 per cent up al £47.6 million, on margins up om a 9 to 7.) per cent like turnover was 11 per cent

ahead in the UK compared with

Europe and North America. Contract wins during the year included the staff catering at Euro Disneyland and at Heathrow. It will also operate the catering at the Stade de France, the new Paris stadium that will host some of next year's World Cup matches.

Mr Mackay said the pros-pects for "significant organic growth" were excellent for the next few years. "The process of outsourcing is moving into new sectors of health and education. In the US alone there is still over \$25 billion (£15 billion) worth of business yet to be outsourced."

Adjusted earnings per share were up 18.1 per cent to 31.3p and a final dividend of 6.7p. to be paid on April 7, makes 9.8p.

Tempus. page 28





#### Tesco to earn £80m profit in French sale

**BY CHRIS AYRES** 

TESCO, the UK supermarket group, will earn almost £80 million profit on the sale of Catteau, its troubled French food retail division (see Commentary this page).

Catteau has been sold to Promodés, its French rival, for £253 million, significantly higher than the £225 million expected. The deal is subject to the approval of the European Commission. Tesco will keep its Tesco Vin Plus stores at Cité d'Europe in Calais.

The move ends Tesco's ambitious expansion plans for on a further 16 sites.

France, which were scuppered by intense local competition. rigid planning rules and high prices. It bought Catteau, which operates 105 stores, for £178 million in 1993, and appointed a French industry heavyweight as president. However, the group still failed to make a significant profit.

Tesco will focus instead on

emerging markets in central Europe. It already has 91 stores in the Czech Republic. Slovakia, Hungary and Poland, and plans to open stores

#### Brokerage cuts service

By RICHARD MILES

FIDELITY Brokerage Services, the telephone-based stockbroker, is withdrawing from the institutional securities market following a sixmonth strategic review of

The company said yester-

declined to comment on the level of job losses that would result from the closure. Fidelity's decision to shut

down its institutional business follows a £250,000 fine from the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog, after the discovery of a string day that it is to wind down its of administrative and computcapital markets operation with immediate effect. But it

#### Strong pound fails to halt BTP advance

BTP, the chemicals company, lifted pre-tax profits to £25.16 million from £23.66 million in the half-year to the end of September, in spite of an adverse £1.8 million translation effect from the strength of sterling (Martin Barrow writes).

£3.2 million to group operating profits that rose to £27.2 million from £24.6 million previously. Steve Hannam, chief executive, said the fine chemicals division enjoyed a particularly strong first half, helped by the £44.3 million acquisition of PCR. based in Florida.

Earnings were 10.53p a share, up from 9.91p previously.

The interim dividend is increased to 4.2p a share from 4.05p.



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STOCK

Stock Market Writer

## Banks underpin pr as buyers look for r

SHARE prices in London closed with modest losses, but brokers are convinced the market is already building up a full head of steam for the seasonal pre-Christmas rally.

The equity market was cer-tainly resilient enough to shrug off an opening fall of almost 60 points on Wall Street in the wake of several significant profit warnings.

After losing an early lead, the FTSE 100 index put in a late rally, reducing a 32-point deficit to just 10.3 at 5,177.1 by the close. A total of 803 million shares changed hands. Sentiment was bolstered by

the unchanged inflation rate and further evidence of a slowdown in high street spending. It is hoped these latest indicators may be enough to prevent any further rises in interest

Once again it was the banks that underpinned the market in the hope that this week's merger between Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank of Switzerland will prompt a spate of similar moves in this country. Barciays rose 66p to El6.39, Alliance & Leicester 1612p to 785p, and NatWest Bank 18p to £10.16.

Safeway advanced 13p to 338p amid growing speculation that bid talks with rival Asda, 34p better at 17414p, may be back on again.

British Acrospace soared 73p to £17.68 on the back of calls by various countries to draw up plans for restructuring the European defence industry.

National Grid dipped 7p to 293p ahead of the start of dealings on a when issued basis in Energis, its telecoms subsidiary, which was priced at 290p. The range of offers was pitched between 275p and 320p. At these levels, the business is valued at almost £900 million. The price touched a high for the day of 29712p before settling at 292p.

a premium of 2p. Some negative comments from Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, left Arjo Wiggins 412p lower at 167p and Rexam 13p at 27712p. It seems Goldman is worried in the Far East may have on

prospects. pass, up 412p at 72012p, lived up to City expectations. Precaterer, headed by Francis Mackay, chief executive, jumped 20 per cent to £137.2



Francis Mackay, left, with Roger Matthew, managing director, of Compass, up 412p on good full-year figures

million with the help of recent acquisitions.

It was the first day of trading in Bovis Homes after being demerged from P&O. 3p better at 673p. The shares were placed at 200p, but after briefly touching 20412p came off the boil to close with a lp discount on the day at 199p. The profits warning and dividend cut from Matthew

sector with HP Bulmer down 6p at 40712p, while Merrydown, which last week received a bid approach, shed 2p at 6312p.

Where there is muck, there is brass as Waste Recycling discovered yesterday after the price climbed 13<sup>1</sup>2p to 304<sup>1</sup>2p.

Clark left its shares nursing a

loss of 4612p at 18312p and also

affected others in the drinks



FEWER than 15 shopping days left to Christmas and all is not well on the high street. The latest survey from the British Retail Consortium showed growth in November slowing to its lowest since April 1996. Losses were recorded in Marks & Spencer, 17p to 624p, Storehouse, 5p to 242p, Carpetright, 13p to 467 2p, Dixons, 23p to 635 2p, DFS Furniture, 13p to 558½p, Hamleys, 5p to 3164p, and

NatWest Markets, the broker, has turned cautious with John Richards warning: "Spending may pick

up towards Christmas but retailers face a whiteknuckle ride."

He says that prices of electrical goods are being cut, offsetting any volume growth. This could prove a threat to the likes of Dixons, Argos, off 3p at 616 p. and Thorn, unchanged at 15212p. Children's wear rebranded footwear sales moving into sports stores. helping DIY and the likes of Kingfisher, up 3p at 851p. "Retailers may be driven

into cutting prices to secure sales," Mr Richards says.

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better We 40p. V soon

265p. It has been talking to Société Générale de Belgique about the sale of certain parts of its business. City specula-tors claim Royal Bank of Scotland, up 912p at 777p is ready to bid with La

Christies International surged 2412p to 275p despite the breakdown in bid talks earlier this week. Brokers say another bidder may be stalking the shares.

Telewest contined to make headway, adding 5p at 8412p on mounting speculation that US West, its near 30 per cent shareholder, may be poised to launch an £800 million offer. Speculative buying also pushed Securicor 1612p high-

er at 30612p. BT was 312p harder at 477p.
Partners Holdings turnbled 7112p to 90p on the back

of a profits warning.

GILT-EDGED: Gains stretched to more than £34 at the longer end, boding well for today's auction. Brokers reported buying all along the curve as the Bank of England prepared to offer £2 billion of Treasury 612 per cent 2003. Sentiment was enhanced by

fresh evidence of a slow-down in retail spending and the unchanged inflation number. in the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt put on £916 at £12038 as the total number of contracts completed more than doubled on the previous days' total to 71,000. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose £2532 to £120532,

while Treasury 7 per cent 2002

NEW YORK: Shares were down by midday after a rout in technology stocks rippled through the wider market, triggering profit-taking after the sharp climb of the past week. The Dow Jones industrial average stood at 8,098.65, a fall of 12.19 points.

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those on bottles.

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## Compass finds its direction

AFTER the frenetic pace of deals of recent years, it may take some time to adjust to the idea that Compass can make very good progress without the help of more acquisitions. The truth is, the catering group has already established big businesses in its main markets of the UK, continental Europe and North America. Compass had sales of £1.8 billion in continental Europe last year and turned over £1.2 billion in North America and that's before a full contribution from SHRM in France and DAKA International in the US, bought in July for a combined total of

about £350 million. Just integrating these companies should enable the group to produce better results. More importantly, Compass has built an international network that leaves it well placed to benefit from the continuing trend to

contract out the provision of food to employees. The market extends from companies to schools and from universities to hospitals and is already worth many billions of pounds.

For investors, one of the greatest attractions is the low demand on capital. Compass is forecast to start generating substantial amounts of cash. Even though it is now labouring under £877 million of debt, it is already contemplating buying in up to 10 per

Pre-tax profits, up 20 per cent to £137.2 million last year, look set to approach £160 million this year, and almost £200 million next. The shares have been strong over the past few months and at 72012p stand on about 20 times forecasts of this year's earnings. Given the growth prospects, that looks fair value.

Berkeley Group

BERKELEY GROUP is growing at such a lick that it will soon be Britain's first £100 million a year housebuilder. But while this year's and next year's profits look to be in the bag, more distant prospects are less certain.

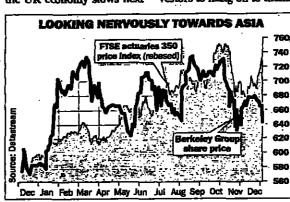
With a £43.9 million profit on £274 million of first-half sales, Berkeley is now making a pre-tax margin of 16 per cent. As a comparison, Wilson Bowden manages about 12.5 per cent, while Barratt Developments rubs along on under 10 per cent.

The specialist nature of Berkeley's developments. and the expense of the homes it offers, give it some protection from pressures felt more keenly in the rest of the housing market. But the rising land prices will eventually make themselves felt. The company is sanguine

about the potential loss of sales to Far Eastern buyers. The problem will be to find new purchasers once the existing forward sales are Many of the Far Eastern

sales are of London proper-ties that are reckoned to be perhaps twice as profitable as sales outside London. If the UK economy slows next

year, the recent growth will be difficult to sustain. That the City's worries are so forward-looking is a testament to the fundamental strength of Berkeley's business. While they linger, it is difficult to see any near-term excitement in the shares. The company's track record should persuade existing investors to hang on to them.



#### Matthew Clark

PROFIT warnings have become a bad habit at Matthew Clark, whose latest excuse was poor trading in the run-up to Christmas. This, remember, just six months since Peter Aikens, the embattled chief executive, announced: "We now have a completely stable business." Last year, there was a double whammy of competition from alcopops allied to the Chancellor's decision to slap a rise in duty on premium-strength ciders — both causing damage to sales of Clark brands such as Diamond White Mr Aikens admitted that Diamond

White volumes were up to 40 per cent down on November acquired along with Taunton Cider. Just to add to the pain. ing to drinking their premium cider from cans, where margins are less than half

The board has not sat on its

hands. In the current year alone it expects to spend up to £10 million on advertising, matching a similar commitment from rival HP Bulmer. It is also wisely investing its more resilient whosesale and non-cider businesses.

After yesterday's dive from 230p to 1831p, the shares stand at less than eight times this year's likely earnings. Cheap, but the board has a long way to go before it regains investors' confidence.

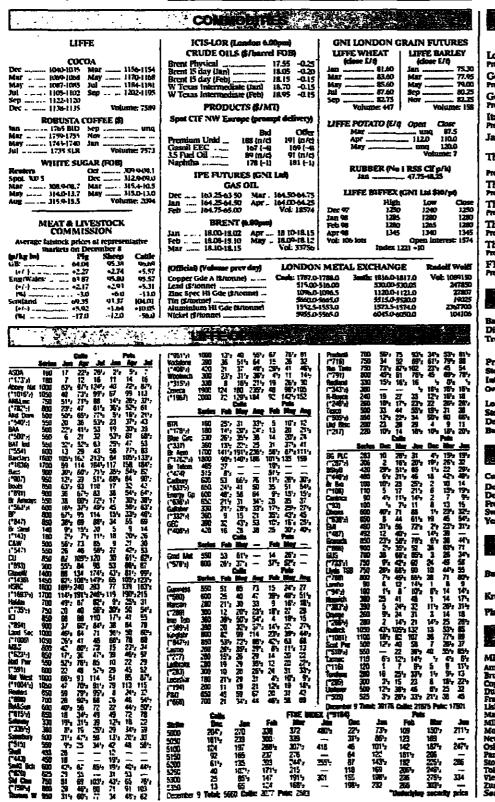
#### Baronsmead

WITH Baronsmead falling to a £20.3 million bid from 3i, one might suppose the small band of venture capital investment trusts is set to shrink further. 3i is buying a cent discount to net asset value - so keen are investment trust shareholders to take a cash exit. With such apparent bargains on offer, what is stopping 3i or other preda-tors gobbling up the rest? Unfortunately, the issue

is not quite so straightforward and consequently shares in venture capital trusts are not such a good bet as they may seem. By nature, their holding are unquoted and hard to sell quickly, so they do not attract the vultures who often prise open underperforming boards. This is a sector for specialists. Despite the discount, 3i's offer for Baronsmead still beat three rival bids. It is not ungenerous, given the risks involved in realising the in-

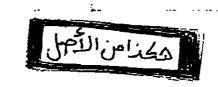
vestments. Other trusts that have repeated Baronsmead's error of focusing on the smallest unquoted companies couldalso be vulnerable. However, investors may do better in the simpler, smaller comformance has been equally Smaller Company trusts. both managed by Martin Currie, would make sense.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN



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It is never wise to take the pronouncements of industrial lobby groups at face value, whether they be those of the Confederation of British Industry or the British Retail Consecution Afragall in British Retail Consortium. After all, it would not sit well with their members if they argued that manufacturing was coping well with the strength of the pound, or that consumers were showing few signs of interest rate fatigue. Nevertheless, the ourright gloom from the BRC this week might just genuinely reflect the reality faced by many of Britain's retailers.

November was clearly a rotten month on the high street but it may or may not presage a bleak winter season. It is still quite possible that Christmas will lift off and leave egg on the faces of those retailers who are being panicked into December sales.

But what is important for economic policy is not the volume of sales but whether volumes are high enough to create inflationary pressures. The evidence suggests that, despite about £30 billion in windfall payments in the summer, there is precious little evidence of inflation coming from the high street. Yesterday's retail prices figures showed that consumer durales prices in November were actually 0.3 per cent down on a year ago. For all the talk of a revival in the housing market, household goods prices have risen by only 1.1 per cent.

## High street retailers read the headline — and weep

repeated expressions of concern about the next pay round, it is the headline rate, rather than the target-ed underlying rate, which matters. One of the main culprits behind November's 3.7 per cent headline rate is housing, the perverse impact of higher mortgage rates as the Mone-tary Policy Committee has jacked up base rates. Other villains include tobacco, alcohol and petrol, all of which are subject to a continuing programme of duty increases. Foreign holidays are 8 per cent more expensive than a year ago and domestic holidays 4 per cent, testament to how many people have spent their windfalls on getting away.

Windfalls have repeatedly been invoked as the unwelcome guest at Britain's economic feast but there is little evidence that they have created broad pressure on prices. Holidays seem to be the exception rather than the rule. Part of the reason that prices have not generally been pushed higher is that windfall money has



ert Fleming Securities, which com-missioned a detailed survey of windfall spending in August, esti-mates that the implied import content of supply attached to the consumption of windfalls is close to 40 per cent, roughly double that for all

consumer spending in a typical year. Imports have, of course, been made much cheaper because of the strength of the pound. Most commentators now believe that the bulk of windfall spending has already happened. Therefore, it is probable that Britain

off phenomenon without paying an inflationary price. The coincidence of windfalls and a surging pound was lucky (for policymakers at least) but there is far more to the lack of price pressure on the high street than this. The managing director of a com-

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pany which acts as agent to importers of goods into Britain's high streets believes that November's awful showing had nothing to do with higher interest rates. He says that consumers boycotted the shops last month simply because they are waiting for retailers to panic into sales. The British consumer has become a master player of chicken with the retailer, and retail finances are ghastly as a result. Our MD says that he has £2 million of postdated cheques from British retail customers, panicked into early sales, ruining their margins in the process. Many are unable to pay for their stock until January and beyond.

To the extent that the MD's pile of cheques has got bigger each year, the

squeeze on prices in the high street would appear to have become worse as the economic recovery has length-ened, hardly evidence of an inflationened, hardly evidence of an inflation-ary consumer boom. On top of this, it seems clear that the economy is set to slow quite sharply. The impact of monetary tightening will continue to be felt well into next year and fiscal policy will be tight. Planned public spending is virtually flat and the burden of taxation will increase with rising council taxes and extrise duties rising council taxes and excise duties on tobacco and petrol and a further cut in mortgage tax relief.

The Treasury's prediction that inflation will rise next year is there-fore very odd. The only viable theory to explain why the Chancellor is so much more pessimistic on this score than the Bank of England is that he wants to get the slowdown over with as soon as possible so that the upswing coincides with the next election. If one puts aside such an unworthy thought for a moment, it is possible that the Chancellor is genuinely worried about the spring wage round. Rather than hope that the Bank of England will continue raising rates, perhaps his next eyecatching reform should be the abolition of the headline rate of inflation. Forcing firms to concentrate on the underlying rate, only a wonders for his nerves.

If the deal succeeds, Sir is not the usual quali-John, who has since become fication for a captain convinced of Khumalo's of industry. But Mzi Khumalo's time on Robben pedigree through months of negotiations, wants to appoint the JCI chairman to Island sealed his friendship with Nelson Mandela and the Lonrho board Lonrho sources are keen to play brought him to the forefront of the black empowerment movement within South Af-However, the poor performance of JCI, the mining

> be a South African mining company largely with a London quote. In the next few months Lonrho will conclude the sale of Princess hotels for at least £250 million. The Dutton-Forshaw motor dealer group - which includes Jack Barday, Britain's leading seller of Rolls-Royces — is expected to be sold to a management

Then a demerger of the It will be a trading combusiness in creating a better shape than most of agriculture that will be one of the few

South Africa's tho's African minmining interest ing operathe tions. scuppered by a combination of Sir John Craven's cynicism about JCI's gold operations and concerns about Khumalo's lack of a track record. He was also concerned by the collapse of JCI's share price, which

Selling JCI's remaining gold assets to Brett Kebble, the JCI director who championed their purchase in the first place, has removed one obstacle to a deal that is gaining increasing importance to Khumalo. He re cently boasted that "people who back me have made money". That is true at his financial services group Capital Alliance, which has doubled earnings and enjoyed a fourfold rise in its share price over the last couple of years. But his problem is that Lontho says it will not pay a premium over JCI's net asset value.

and even the most generous

of South African mining

analysts do not put the NAV

Are you getting

above R35 a share.

yesterday was less than half

the 54.5 rand Khumalo and

his backers paid to buy

down suggestions that Khumalo might succeed Sir John but anything less than deputy chairman would bring accusations of tokenism in South Africa.

By the time Khumalo comes on board Lonrho will

buyout early next year, releasing about £100 million.

pure African

investments traded on the London market. Lonrho Mining will own 61 per cent of Duiker, which is due to buy JCI's coal business and 73 per cent of the platinum mining operations, and 38 per cent of Ashanti, the Ghanaian gold mine that is the world's cheapest gold producer. It will be able to buy in and cancel the 28 per cent stake that has passed from Tiny Rowland to Dieter Bock to Anglo-American and finally to JCI. Khumalo has talked about "turning this company around", but in truth it will be a business in a great

mining interest. Consummating the purchase of JCI now looks like a win-win situation for Lonrho and Khumalo. By pinning its colours to the black empowerment movement, Lonrho will be able to keep the South African conglomerates Anglo-American and Gencor at arm's length and Khumalo will be able to take the credit for the success of a business he had little to do

rest of the South African

## Aerospace industry consolidation cleared for take-off in Europe

Adam Jones says Airbus could be a

template for the future of

the industry

irbus Industrie is par-A ticularly proud of its planned A3XX. The £5 billion project, if it gets built, will be the largest commercial aircraft in the world,

with maximum capacity

likely to be greater than 800

people on certain "sardine" routes, such as Japanese short-haul flights. Visitors to the Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, France, are shown a seducpromotional video improbably long

bar or the gymnasium. They loiter contentedly at the foot of a staircase, amid jugglers, kissing couples and an atmosphere of minimalist cool. It is the kind of aircraft for which even the sickbags have been designed by Sir

Terence Conran or Phillipe The preoccupation of Airbus with size and efficiency makes the A3XX, due to be in service in 2003, a fitting commercial flagship for the European aerospace indus-

If the A3XX is the future of jumbo jets, then the structure created by Airbus once it is transformed into a real company could well be a template for the future of the European defence and aero-

Yesterday's call by the Governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom for an acceleration to the consolidation in the industries had a simple un-

They feel that growing bigger is not just an option



The new Airbus A3XX is regarded as a fitting commercial flagship for the European aerospace industry

champions - both in aerospace and defence electronics - it is the only option, given the size of the competitors being formed by allimerger of Boeing and Mc-Donnell Douglas, and the need for efficiencies of scale as post-Cold War defence

budgets shrink further. Although George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has already told the United Kingdom companies to "rationalise or die", it was a significant to have it spelt out so clearly by the French and German Governments.

It softens the disappoint ment that was felt when France chose to position Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics groups which it part-owns, as the hub of a new French defence group ing, instead of opening the

Germany — the original Airbus visionaries. British Aerospace holds 20 per cent, with Casa of Spain owning the remaining 4.2 per cent. new com

ise of the sensitivities of certain participants, it publishes no overall accounts, and analysts are forced to try to piece together composite information from the figures that the listed companies allow to escape.

There are widespread complaints that the structure hides the differing levels of efficiency among the part-ners, with British Aerospace's wing-making func-

tion seen as being particularly sleek and profitable. These inequalities make it difficult to decide who should own how much of the

Once Airbus is restructured, the French, German and UK partners will be under pressure to add their integrated defence aerospace activities, making one European aerospace company. Germany and France have said that this is what they want. Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, was less forward at yesterday's press conference,



saying that it is up to the industry to come up with its own decision.

One way by which a single European aerospace comny could be built is making the Eurofighter con- comprising sortium British Aerospace, Dasa. Casa and Alenia of Italy into a single company in the same fashion as the Airbus restructuring. The partners' non-Eurofighter defence activities could be injected into the new company, added to Dassault of France, and the whole could then be merged with Airbus.

The biggest sticking points are likely to be the difficulty of making workers redundant in France and Germany, where unemployment levels are high.

One analyst said yesterday: "I'd like to be euphoric but I think there are lots of problems. There's a big gap between the wish and the reality." He pointed to an aerospace joint venture between TI, the UK engineer. and Snecma of France, where profit margins are still weaker than competitors. He blamed this on the difficulty of shedding French staff.

Dilution of its existing interests would damage

French pride. On Monday, Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, indicated that France, which owns Aérospatiale, would want a stake of about 30-40 per cent in an enlarged Airbus company. At yesterday's press conference, Margaret Beck-ett declined to comment on how ownership might be

Yet the French will pay for this influence. The A3XX has an estimated development cost of £4.8 billion, a third of which may be provided by national governments. To cut the amount, the cashstrapped French Treasury project, which is the subject extensive consultation with airlines and airports and is likely to include investment from non-core companies such as Saab and

Creating single entities might get round the sort of problems encountered by these infuriating consortiums such as when th Eurofighter found itself pitted against the Rafale, a French competitor, as well as the American F-22. But, in spite of the departure of Jean Pierson, the Airbus managing director, the operation has become so successful that it may be in the position to launch the A3XX without competition from Boeing. For all its faults Airbus

has shown that if all the Europeans sing the same tune they may be able to drown out the defence industry's loud American drawl.

#### door to non-French companies such as GEC of the United Kingdom. It also sends out a positive space industries. signal for the restructuring of Airbus Industrie into a single company, due to take place in 1999. The success of Airbus to date has been in spite of its unwieldy structure. It is a consortium 37.9 per cent owned by Aérospatiale of France and Dasa of Beckett: industry must come up with its own decision France and Dasa

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## Cheap votes

AN UNEXPECTED casualty of this week's elections in the City is Dennis Delderfield, and there will be few tears shed at Guildhall at his departure. Delderfield is an outspoken critic of the outmoded system of franchise there, and after two years as common councillor at the Ward of Farringdon Without he is now himself without. His defeat was a narrow one, 31 votes Delderfield has fallen foul of

the powerful Smithfield mar-



You can asshure the shareholdersh we're doing everyshing we can

ket traders, after a disagree-ment with one of them. Of the successful 12 councillors at Farringdon, eight are either traders or their nominees. Under the City franchise it is perfectly possible to buy votes by acquiring a "tenancy at will", a sub-lease on a small patch of the Square Mile. This the traders have been doing. and in other wards too, I am Another result was the ejec-

tion, after just one year, of Derek Davis from the Ward of Cheap. Again there is more at work here than local democracy. As I reported yesterday, five candidates competed for four seats at Cheap. The curious thing is that all five are identified with the same small City cabal, having their tenancies at the Midland's head office in Poultry. Joe Byllam-Barnes, a familiar figure in City circles and part of the old guard, has effectively carried out a putsch against his mate Davis by standing against him. It is a strange world and once it is all properly reformed, in a funny way I shall miss it.

□ I RING Julian Metcalfe, who runs the excellent Prêt à Manger sandwich chain, to



ask whether this is the best time to be rolling out his latest recipe, steak and chips. "Oh God Oooh..." says Metcalfe, then pulls himself together. The meat is all Aberdeen Angus fillet sourced from one Scottish farm. "It's selling incredibly well."

I am not surprised. Choice beef was as thin on the ground round my way at the weekend as Teletubbies dolls, and as fought over. Good luck to Prét for giving people what they want rather than what the health police think we should be allowed.

Hot air THE failure of Richard

world balloon attempt has left them hanging on at Telephone Information Services, which was to have operated a phone line providing regular updates during the 15 day-plus trip. Until the balloon drifted off into the stratosphere Roger Farrow, business development manager at TIS, learnt of the accident on the news but heard nothing from Marrakech. "Not a lot appears to have happened in terms of updating." he says lugubriously.

#### Offside THIS must be the most un-

usual reason yet. Caspian, owner of Leeds United, is postponing figures until Tuesday. They were due this week, but "in the light of the tragic death of Billy Bremner, the an-nouncement will be delayed as a mark of respect", the company said. "We thought it would play very badly in Leeds," said an insider.

☐ AS WE survey the unedifying gladiatorial contest between SBC and UBS to decide who keeps their jobs, a colleague reminds me of an old Monty Python sketch featuring two pantomime horses, one surplus to requirements. And a merchant banker, "In the grand traditions of British merchant banking, you will Branson's latest round-the- fight to the death," John Cleese tells the pantomime horses. And they do. Rather prescient, really.

#### General buy

I SEE another BTR director is putting his money where his mouth is and buying the shares. Robert Bauman, and I never knew his middle name was Patten, has bought 300,000, a day after lan Strachan, chief executive, bought 70,000. BTR shares vesterday were no more impressed by Bauman's gesture. They closed a penny lower.

MARTIN WALLER



Robert Bauman has put his money where his mouth is by buying BTR shares

#### Tony Dawe introduces a four-page special report on the computer danger facing industry and Government

The race for compliance

Nigel Powell analyses the bug and asks: what does compliance mean?

'Lifts, cars,

planes,

safes and

traffic

also fail'

The millennium bug is the direct result of computer programmers trying to save their employers money. Back in the early days of computers, when systems were big enough to fill a room, programmers were under acute pressure to save space, because space was

All sorts of methods were used, and one of them involved cutting back date calculations in programs to just six numbers. Instead of a database program having to hold, for example, a full 21/07/1947, the program was written to understand 21/07/47. It may not seem like a big saving, but every bit counted

when bytes cost thou-sands of dollars each, since each program (for example a pensions calculator) could contain millions of dates relating to millions of data records.

The practice caught lights may on, and from that day to the recent past most computer programmers followed the same space-saving tradition, even when the cost as a leap year." constraints on space eased as

computers became cheaper. Now these very same saved bytes have come home to roost, and the result is potential chaos. On January 1, 2000 all of the old programs which have not been fixed will become completely confused, because to them the date will be 01/01/00, an impossible date to calculate.

Not only computer programs were penny pinched in this way either. Manufacturers of just about every product which contained a micro-processor chip also made use of the convention. and so we are now faced with the possibility of lifts, security systems, cars, planes, sales and even traffic lights failing on the fateful day.

The terror of the millennium bug lies in the fact that no one knows how widespread it is. Hence the race to fix the errant

systems, to make them "compli-ant" with the year 2000. But what does "compliance" entail? The British Standards Institution has produced what is probably the definitive statement of compliance. compliance. Committee BDD/1/-/3 has issued the following DISC PD 2000-1 Definition Year 2000 Conformity

Requirements. Year 2000 conformity shall mean that neither performance nor functionality is affected by dates prior to, during and after the Year 2000 in particular:

Rule 1 - No value for current date will cause any interruption

in operation. Rule 2 - Date-based functionality must behave consistently for dates prior to, during and after Year 2000. Rule 3 - In all interfaces and data storage, the century in any date must be specified either explicitly or by unam-biguous algorithms or interencing rules. Rule 4 — Year 2000

must be recognised

The final rule offers another twist to the tale: some programs may not recognise the leap year. Indeed, several other risk scenarios involving dates and microchips have appeared under

the millennium bug microscope.

There is a widespread (though mostly unconfirmed) belief that some programmers have failed to build in safeguards for the date 9/9/99. Some computer software, in particular UNIX based programs, may fail on January 18, 2038 because of a limitation in the design of a widely used programming lan-guage function. And IBM-com-patible PCs may revert to January 4 1980, the birthdate of DOS, as the millennium dawns. The BSI-DISC (British Standards Institute): 0181 996 7000. Two useful web sites: http://www.weblaw.co.uk

http://www.year2000.com/.

THE task of tackling a numbers problem which affects computer systems must seem very simple to non-technical people in this highly scientific

age. The fact that many systems which record the year with two digits might be confused when 99 is replaced by 00 at midnight on December 31, 1999, has tended, therefore, to be dismissed as a curable hiccup by the majority of the population, including leaders of industry and Government.

As the date moves nearer, however, the potential for crisis has become more apparent, sparking a wave of announcements by the Government and urgent board meetings in companies which have failed to plan for the so-called "millennium timebomb".

Many computer experts now believe that several aspects of our everyday lives, from making telephone calls to using credit cards, may be affected and that the consequences for Government and industry are alarming. Estimates vary hugely, but a conservative guess at the global cost of handling this problem is £400 billion. In Britain alone it is put at £30 billion.

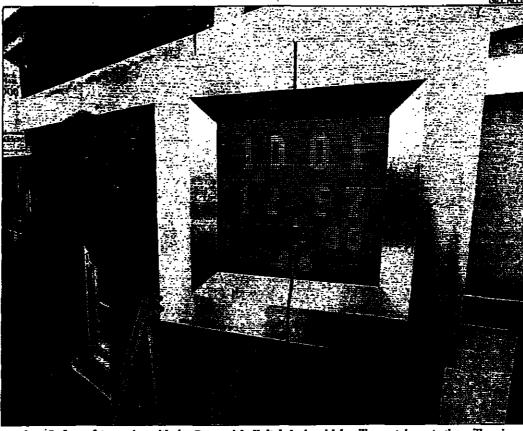
There is a general awareness of the problem now, but what causes anxiety is the increasing amount of data which shows that companies are not taking the action they need to remedy it," says Barbara Roche, the Trade and Industry Minister. There is still time to overcome the problem, but they must act now."

The data continues to pour out of research departments. A report by the PA Consulting Group last week found that almost half of the 1,000 organisations surveyed worldwide do not yet have a formal millennium programme in place and only 55 per cent of senior managers are fully aware of the implications.

A study by Cap Gemini, the European computer services and consulting company, suggests that one in ten organisations will fail to meet the deadline for converting their systems to handle dates after December 1999. Many of them are large companies, and the effect of missing the deadline could put 29 per cent of gross domestic product

Alan Langlands, chief executive of the National Health Service, has described the problem as "the highest non-clinical priority" in the

The Government has been criticised by Robin Guenier, the head of Taskforce 2000, for failing to take the issue seriously enough, and has



Andrew Loftus, of Acceurist, with the Greenwich digital clock, which will count down to the millennium.

## Countdown to a digital disaster

pared by Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' Treasure Democrats' Treasury

He has claimed that only three out of 16 departments are on course to sort out the problem and that little of the money committed to it has been

Ministers have responded by saying that Tony Blair recently assured the Cabinet that Whitehall was ready to cope with the crisis and that £370 million has been earmarked for defusing the timebomb.

The crucial issue for executives and government ministers - is to assess the scale of the problem. affecting them, according to Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator who was recently appointed to

chair Action 2000. "They must then decide how much money and talent will have to be redirected from research and development into solving the millennium problem." he says. "Some companies may see

'Missing the deadline could put 29 per cent of gross domestic product at risk'

> this as an opportunity to update equipment, instead of spending money on reprogramming."

This is the key decision for men and women in company boardrooms. Do they try to get by with patching their systems with the value to the project by upgrading

Nicholas Birtles, presi-dent of Consteller, which has developed its own year 2000 compliant data management system, has no doubts. "Companies with the largest year 2000 prob-lems are those which have many 'heritage' systems running on mainframe ma-

chines," he says. "These systems are a minefield of year 2000 bombs waiting to explode.

"Many organisations will find converting existing applications to support year 2000 is a great deal more complex than they anticipated. There is, however, a much simpler and more effective strategy: get off legacy systems as quickly as possible and stop pouring good money after bad."

Marc Swiecicki, Hewlett Packard's year 2000 manager for Europe, says: "Companies are going to be incurring a fair amount of cost without increased efficiency and incremental growth. But the year 2000 needs to be seen as an

opportunity.
For companies with legacy applications, this is the chance to adopt new applications that are not only going to be year 2000 compli-ant but add value to the business. The key message is that the longer they wait the more difficult it will be and fewer options will be

Paul Robertshaw of SAP, the software house which has developed the R/3 system to counter millennium "bugs" and operate into the new century, adds that replacing applications has several advantages. It will be more competitive and reliable, may be cheaper in the long term and easier for IT managers to sell to their directors because of the added value.

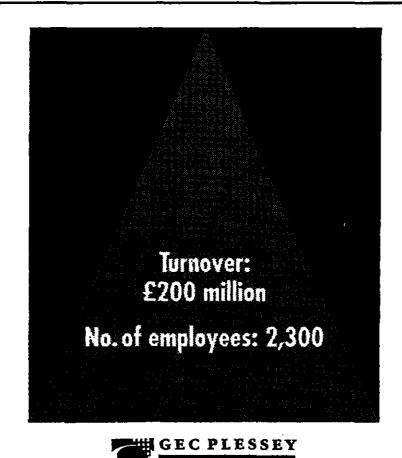
A detailed guide to the year 2000 by Bloor Research warns, however, of the risks of upgrading applications. "Many tools are being pro-moted on the basis that they will deliver some added value above and beyond helping to solve the year 2000 problem, but adding value must be treated with caution and not be allowed to dilute the objectives," concludes Andrew Hammett, the report's author.

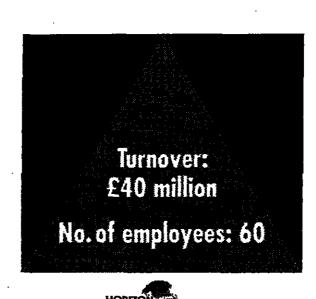
"We believe that to burden a year 2000 project with these additional unnecessary complexities will significantly increase the risk of failing to deliver its primary objec-

tives," says Mr Hammett.
The guide also provides advice for companies which have yet to tackle the millennium issue. It advises IT managers to begin by provoking awareness of the probem to obtain sufficient funds for an initial study. This should justify a budget for a thorough investigation. It also recommends appointing a central person or small team to gather and disseminate information to project teams in different

departments.
If you're just starting now and are a large organisation, you are almost certainly going to have to practice triage," says Ian Hugo, editor of Millennium Watch, in a foreword to the guide.

That means placing a priority on fixing different applications according to their importance to the organisation and according also to what applications will fail





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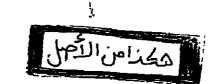
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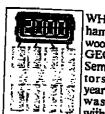




عكذامن رالإصل

## It's out with the old, and in with the new

Tony Dawe on one international firm that updated its entire network



ham Eastwood joined GEC-Plessey Semiconductors three years ago he was faced with an IT

nightmare. The company, based in Swindon, had been formed from four chip makmanager's ers, including Ferranti and Marconi, and operated four separate factories in England plus sales and design centres worldwide, all with different and incompatible computer

As he investigated an integration programme, Mr Eastwood, the information systems executive, discovered his company was using more than 100 applications susceptible to the millennium bug. including sales, finance and planning programmes. Fixing the problem was almost impossible because most of the applications had been modi-

#### CASE STUDY.

fied to GEC-Plessey's specific-

"Our year 2000 problem was completely daunting," he says. "It soon became apparent that it would be a futile use of time, effort and money to patch the applications and of no value to the

company. The sen-sible solution was to combine the two issues and put in-vestment money into something which would benefit us beyond the year 2000."

**GEC-Plessey** chose the R/3 system from SAP (UK) to replace most of its existing systems in sales and distribution, materials management, finance, costing and production planning. It decided to introduce them all at the same time in a "big bang" approach as 650 of the company's 2,300 employees would be using the system.
The cost was in "the low millions", according to Mr Eastwood, but selling the idea

to his board was not as difficult as he had anticipated. The company has an annual turnover of around £200 million. "Our bid for the

'We had investment was based on the im-provement it to benefit would bring in beyond the business produc-tivity," Mr Мг Eastwood says. year 2000' "We also advised

that the year 2000 problem was a worrying issue: that the scope of the problem was not fully known, but that it would affect us. Even at that time, in 1995, it was relevant because both the finance and marketing departments were engaged in five-year projections." GEC-Plessey then looked

for the ideal platform on which to run the SAP system. The company operated individual mainframes and servers at each site, but chose an integrated system and plumped for Hewlett Packard, which meant a new partner and new technology for the company.
The Hewlett Packard

equipment has brought peace of mind and spared us from wrestling with computer prob-lems when we should be concentrating on our main task of providing chips," Mr Eastwood adds. The company went live with the SAP system on July 15 this

year and Mr Eastwood is convinced that the decision was right.
Peter Robertshaw, SAP product manager, says: This enormous project was unusual in that all elements of the IT infrastructure were replaced across the organisation at the same time. GEC-Plessey now

has a brand new system in which it can be confident."

DON'T HANG AROUND We'll help you with your tax Rëvenue

## Tax code cracker

CASE STUDY

HECTOR the inspector (left) was busy this year prompting us to return our tax forms, but the Inland Revenue can't process them without computers, and so the millennium bug poses a huge challenge (Nigel Powell writes). Mark Sudan, head of the Revenue's £26 million Year 2000 (Y2K) project, describes it as a mammoth undertaking. "But we are bang on track with

our timings and costs," he says.
In July 1994 the Revenue awarded a ten-year outsourcing contract under which the EDS consultancy took responsibility for the compliance of all Revenue computing systems. The hardware includes ICL and IBM mainframes in data centres at Cumbernauld, Worthing and Shipley which service 44,000 users across the UK, as well as several UNIX systems and 45,000 PCs running Windows software.

EDS reported early last year on the scope of the project, Mr Sudan says. "So we were able to give senior management an idea of the scale of the problem. We got their approval fairly quickly, which was essential."

The last tests in the £26 million project are scheduled for the end of 1999. By then 30,000 man days of work involving some 900 staff will have gone into examining, fixing and testing 250 computer systems.

The team benefited by starting with a pilot project which highlighted problem areas. Mr Sudan's advice? Don't be side-tracked by the discovery of unrelated bugs in the code: log them and come back to them later.

## Vulnerable companies face share markdown

Analysts are questioning stock

values and the effect of the

millennium, writes Lindsay Nicolle

'Business

will find a

range of

people

asking

more

pointed

questions'

SHARE prices could be in for some spectacular mood swings next year as forecasts persist that lack of year 2000 compliance could materially affect companies during the run-up to the millennium.

Many firms have been shy of putting a public figure on vulnerability to the bug, but there are exceptions. Safeway estimates the cost of adjusting its computers at about £5 million over two may start qualifying accounts years. The Royal Bank of Scotland expects to spend nearly £30 million on remodelling its software. NatWest Bank says the problem will cost about 3 per cent of its IT budget until 2000.

Some IT companies are dismissive. Rockwell, the American defence firm, said the bug is taking 25 to 30 per cent less time and money than it had

expected. Bill Gates, of Microsoft, has called it "little more than a headache". But Reuters, the online information company, worried the City last month by refusing to put a figure on the cost

of the problem. The issue is beginning to affect takeovers. Last week a \$650 million Dutch privatisation collapsed

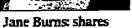
when Getronics, the IT company bidding for Roccade, the state computer services agency, said legal worries about the bug made it too risky to proceed.

In the UK analysts are starting to look for ways of measuring year 2000 compliance in company valuations. But there is as yet no recog-nised benchmark, chiefly because it is so difficult to assess a company's vulnerability where a complex supply chain is involved.

\*One indicator is the seniority of the individual charged with managing the compli-ance process " says David Clayton, an IT stockbroking analyst at BZW. "But this is far from adequate."

In the US the Securities and Exchange Commission has addressed the problem by issuing guidelines clarifying





those conditions where information concerning the year 2000 must be disclosed in documents it then retains. In Britain companies are obliged to declare anything in their accounts, which they think could materially affect their share price, but there is no compulsory requirement to mention year 2000 projects.

Murmurs can now be may start qualifying accounts by late 1998, as well as from investors. "We're very concerned about the state of preparedness of British industry," says Mike Young, assistant director of the British Bankers Association (BBA). "There hasn't yet been much comment from City analysts but we think that will

happen next year. Businesses will increasingly find a whole range of people asking more pointed questions about their state of preparedness. Sensible companies should already be talking to analysts about what they're

doing."
The BBA will launch what it calls a national checklist early next year, to help firms to self-assess their year 2000 readiness in terms of

their supply chain. Banks may use it as a yardstick for loans, especially to mediumsized companies. Jane Burns, ICL's year 2000 programme marketing manager says:

"It's got to affect share prices." The Institutional Fund Manager's Association also expects share prices to move as professionals become more aware of the significance of year 2000 compliance. Julian Le Fanu, the deputy director general, says: "Pressure will be put on firms to explain themselves, given that there is an obligation among companies to make appropriate provision in their accounts for known liabilities. As that happens, those firms which look as if they will vaporise at the year 2000 will find their share prices affected."

■ The author is Editor of



Mike Young concerned

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EMPLOYERS are creating more problems in addition to the year 2000 systems issue by offering big bonuses to persuade computer staff to see them through the program conversion work.

This emerges from separate studies which show that the finance and retail sectors in particular are now desperate enough to offer bonuses of up to 100 per cent of salary — even though such schemes are found to create resentment among other staff.

More than a fifth of organ-isations questioned by MCG Consulting Group, a specialist in incentive schemes, are already offering bonuses to IT staff, and another third are considering such initiatives. Almost 15 per cent have introduced other schemes, such as extra holidays, share options, flexible hours, working from home and six-monthly reviews of pay.

More than 35 per cent of those with bonus schemes are offering to pay safary twice over, typically in the summer of 2000 to ensure that people see the job through.

Some companies are starting to pay bonuses immediately. Banks in the City are leading the way. largely because bonuses are common in other departments, and competition for staff is intense.

But employers in other fields are introducing such schemes with "considerable reluctance", according to MCG partner Derek Burn.
"One problem is that not all organisations operate in a bonus culture," he says, "Introducing such a scheme is seen as a major change — and doing so for a single group of staff can be divisive."

This view is endorsed by separate research by the Institute of Employment Studies. "Our work suggests that companies paying substantial bonuses could be wasting their money." says researcher Stephen Bevan. They inflate pay. They cause resentment among others, who see that they are not considered vital enough or that they have not made enough fuss. compared with others."

Mr Bevan says bonuses should be used as a last resort - and that employers should look at other ways of keeping computer staff. "IT professionals are seen as a breed apart and immune to many traditional approaches," he says.

Programmers who know ancient computer languages are in demand, says Tony Dawe



computer programmers and those who have left work to bring up families are finding themselves with a price on

their heads as computer companies and software houses struggle to recruit staff to tackle the millennium time bomb.

Technicians conversant with such ancient computer languages as Assembler and Cobol can expect rates of pay that would have been beyond their wildest dreams when they were first writing programs in these languages more than 20

As well as trying to lure former staff off the golf course and away from coffee mornings, the industry is also trying to attract more graduates and to introduce specific training schemes.

The demand for staff to unravel millions of lines of code — and to work on replacement systems that many businesses may choose to adopt instead — will also mean big bonuses for technicians who promise to stay with companies badly affected by the "bug". Chris Pearse, managing director

of the National Computing Centre. an independent IT services group. says: "Languages sucyh as Cobol are not used now, but some systems are still operating on it with the codes messed by extra bits that have been tacked on."

Cobol (commercial or businessoriented language), was widely used in programs written in the Seventies and Eighties, but the oldest applications were developed using Assembler, a low-level language capable of addressing fields by many means.

The year 2000 problem will be particularly difficult to detect and fix automatically in Assembler applications, yet most mainframes still have some Assembler code to check, which may have to be done manually. The problem will also be difficult to trace in codes written in the PL/I language favoured on IBM mainframes.

Leading the campaign to recruit "Dad's Army" of workers is ICL. the computer services company. which wants to create an "auxiliary workforce" to help its customers to iron out the millennium bug. The company is contacting 300 staff who retired at the ages of between 55 and 65, and the initial response suggests that half will be happy to take up the challenge. Some women who had left the company to bring up families have also agreed to rejoin ICL.

They can choose to work as many



Maebh O'Connor and Lesley Foley of PKS are among those trying to solve the millennium problem

# Old campaigners answer the call

hours as they like and, provided they have their own personal computers, will receive homework packages" containing a disk with the client's faulty data.

In America, Oregon state has launched a recruitment drive for a similar "Dad's Army" and is proposing a change in benefit and tax laws to encourage people to come back to work.

At the opposite end of the employment scale, the 2000 problem also spells good news for graduates. The IT industry was suffering from a skills shortage even before the demands of the date change issue became apparent, and is now eager to recruit students with degrees in non-scientific

Cap Gemini, the European computer services and consulting company, plans to increase the number of graduates it hires to more than

200 a year and is prepared to take those with degrees in history and geography as well as computer science. The company has established a training academy to turn students into fully fledged feeearning employees and has also introduced one-year placement schemes for undergraduates. These provide a taste of real life at the company for undergraudates and. for its part, Cap Gemini treates the students like real employees and subjects them to formal perfor-

mance reviews and objectives. Irish graduates are also being targeted by PKS Systems Integration, a US company that has recently set up in Limerick. It is recruiting and training graduates as systems analysts to sort out faulty lines of customers' codes sent down a telephone line from PKS's Omaha headquarters and downloaded in Limerick.

The shortage of skilled people and the high fees commanded by those who are qualified are also encouraging software suppliers to find ways of producing their own people. SAP of the UK has set up an academy to train hundreds every year in the skills needed to implement the company's R/3 business system, which has been year 2000compliant since 1992.

Petra Frenzel, the managing director of SAP, says: "We decided to make training a priority as we are only too aware that the success of our products depends on the quality of the people who put them

Last year we trained more than 400 people to implement R/3 and this year we aim to make it more than 1,000, a reflection of our commitment to helping business to overcome the hurdles of the next

## At zero hour

When the clock strikes the Nineties' last midnight, how could it affect your life?

There may

be truth in

some of

been created by some experts around the difficulties which the millennium date change could pose to the world's computers. Airliners could crash, weapons systems go haywire and consumerism collapse as credit cards and phone calls fail to function, Tony Dawe writes.

Leaders of threatened industries have dismissed the predicted disasters as hype by companies likely to benefit from fears about the 2000 bug. There may, however, be truth in some millennium myths.

This is what might happen on and around midnight on December 31, 1999:

• AIRLINES: Some air traffic control systems might close down and navigation equip-ment go berserk when the

ling them fail to cope when the year, regis-tered in their microchips, moves from 99 to 00. Tim Goodyear, head of the Interna-tional Air Transport Association's year 2000 project, who also works for KLM. has said that his airline will not operate certain services on January I, 2000, unless suppliers have

guaranteed that all equipment is year 2000 compliant.

BANKING: Financial markets could be seriously disrupted

and banks and finance houses are so concerned that Morgan Stanley, for example, is spending £45m on its "biggest ever IT project, involving 400 man-years of work. Merrill Lynch has committed £125m to creating a 100-strong team to find, examine and, if necessary, correct its 170 million lines of code. All this expense and effort

should save the City and Wall Street from collapse, but pru-dent investors might steer clear of major decisions for several days either side of January 1. CREDIT CARDS: The millennium could start disastrously for most of us if this staple of modern life fails. The good news is that Barclays Bank has started issuing cards with 00

doomsday scenario has expiry dates and, for the most part, they have worked. Problems have occurred with a few retailers whose tills have not been modified. But American Express is delaying the issue of cards for 2000 until the vast majority of outlets in Europe and the rest of the world can

> DEFENCE: Whitehall and the Pentagon have expressed fears about the ability of weapons and monitoring systems to absorb the date change, but the British and US governments are spending a small fortune in trying to ensure the world's

 HEALTH: Computerised medical equipment from heart pumps to monitors could be affected: air conditioning in operating theatres could cease: lifts essential for moving inca-

pacitated patients could stop and administrative systems, including those used to recall patients for checks and waiting lists, could collapse. A programme for

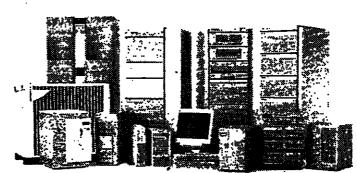
tackling the crisis in the myths the NHS has finally been established but about the doubts remain about whether the cashyear 2000 strapped service will be able to cope and whether GP practices

will be aware that some of their equipment could be vulnerable. SAFETY AT WORK: The Health and Safety Executive has warned that the millennium time bomb poses a significant threat to safety. Industrial robots could march out of control and machine guards fail to operate. Most large companies are tackling the issue, but small and medium-sized companies may lack the in-house expertise to deal with the problem.

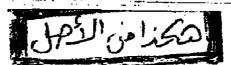
◆ TELEPHONES: International calls are most at risk. BT. for example, has 10,000 embedded systems worldwide, hundreds on the seabed in routing boxes between cables, and there is no physical way of checking them. Some will work and others not, with the worst failures expected on calls routed through Third World countries which may be behind in their 2000 checks.







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ONE of London's most vital businesses, which could bring the capital to a halt if it failed, has found tackling the millennium problem cheaper than it feared.

Despite a vast inventory of signalling, information and ticketing systems and hundreds of escalators and water pumps, London Underground has needed to invest £2 million. so far. to eradicate the bug.

By comparison with our ongoing IT spend of around £500 million, it is not very significant," says John Horan, the Underground's year 2000 project manager. The figure is lower than expected even though we found more systems at risk than we anticipated. We are working on 30 of the most crucial, and I am confident that we will beat our own deadline of completion by December next year."

The company decided to follow the partnership path in tackling the 2000 problem with the intention of patching systems as necessary rather than introducing wholesale replacement. It teamed up with ICL, the European IT systems and services company, to produce a protocol document that would mandate how the problem should be approached by all

departments.
"We already had ICL supporting our systems," Mr Horan says. "We shared many of the same problems building management systems, computer rooms, distributed systems and

"Our IT is very devolved, with much of the processing taking place locally. We don't have the central mainframe dependency you would expect with an organisation of this size, although there are legacy systems from the Seventies. So the problem wasn't so much tackling huge, elderly applications, rather, it was the



## Howdy pardner, goodbye bugs

London Underground and ICL have been tackling the millennial challenge in tandem. By Tony Dawe

systems that had to be located, assessed and, if neces-

sary, rectified."

The initial investigation into business systems revealed that LU had 127 applications that were business critical. In signalling and train information systems alone, there were 33 applications. More than 80 per cent of all systems needed work to prepare them for the new millennium. Some 25 key applications have already been updated.

As well as playing a big part in the investigation. ICL's team also helped LU to

overcome the difficulty of persuading suppliers to talk about the problem, help to identify components at risk and work jointly to find a solution.

The Underground has now moved on to operational and safety systems and buildings and stations, using two separate approaches. The first identifies components, such as automatic ticket machines, signals and closed circuit television to see how they could be affected.

The second takes a systerns view over entire stations. "If just one or two

close," says Mr Horan. "For instance, if the CCTV goes down, the driver may not be able to see if everyone is on the train."

He adds: "The investigations have been very success ful and we are very pleased with the work ICL has done. But the 2000 challenge should not be seen simply as a problem. It is a great oppportunity to move forward. This focus has given us the chance to rationalise the systems we use. We have been able to spot duplications and to do some pipe

## Happy new year, call your lawyer

ory but there will still be plenty of lawyers working late, ready to

has crashed. Law firms specialising in information technology are already checking that their clients' systems are 'millennium compliant".

The most important case so far with millennium significance is St Albans vs ICL. This suggested that, in the absence of any express reference to "quality" or "fitness for purpose", a contract for the supply of a software program was bound to imply that the pro-gram would be reasonably fit for its intended purpose. In other words, without some kind of get-out clause, software suppliers are implicitly responsible for their products coping with the date change. In other words, suppliers of

defective software will be liable ... or will they? Go back far enough and you discover that, in order to save disk space, some contracts actually specified that year dates would be only double digit (for example, 1997 would only be recognised as 97). Such a system could not possibly

have taken account of 2000. That is why, as Clive Seddon, a partner with Ma-sons, emphasises, every contract must be looked at individually. The absence, until recently, of any standard terms relating to the millennium means that what appears in any particular agreement is almost a question of luck.

Even if the contract does not look favourable, there are plenty of other defences sup-

Where there's a contract, you'll find a loophole. Edward Fennell looks at the legal implications of meltdown

pliers could potentially summon. There is a "limitation defence" relating to when the equipment was supplied and "a state-of-the-art defence" (although many lawyers doubt whether this would carry much weight). Alternatively,

suppliers could turn the tables on clients and say it was their fault for not having foreable problem. They could even pass the buck to sub-con-tractors who supplied the system. And, if the worst happens, they may try to polm

the matter on to their insurers. Of course one of the most acute problems is that, no matter how compliant your system may be, there is no guarantee that the same can be said of the systems with which you may be networked. Like collapsing dominoes, your system may crash

because of some non-compliant system beyond your con-trol. That is why the industry is awash with questionnaires, drawn up or checked by lawyers, which aim to establish just how safe your partners' systems are. The first

aim, as Olswangs lawyer Victor Ti-No one quite mon points out, is to gain informaknows when tion. But the secondary purpose is to gain legal amthe bomb munition in case things go wrong. might go off That said, some lawyers are advis-

ing contractor clients to be very careful about completing questionnaires. "If the operator sends you a one," says Seddon, "it is better to meet their representatives to talk rather than give written assurances. Contractors should avoid giving year 2000 conformance warranties. If you have to, ensure their scope is strictly limited."

insurers are issuing millennium policies — but only where they are confident that no claim will follow. This usually means an expensive safety check for the client.

For some organisations. however, compensation after the event is not good enough. Computer failure could put them out of business. This means contracts for "business continuity" companies such as Adam Associates, which is buying computers at the moment. It guarantees its clients a fresh set of PCs within four to eight hours if their existing

In America, at least, the bug will make some lawyers rich. Last week Computer Weekly revealed that PC makers are facing a \$5 billion (£3 billion) claim from a Californian law firm. In the US, unlike Britain, a law firm can bring an action itself, taking up to a third of the award if it wins. If the case succeeds, the bulk of the award would be held in a trust for the estimated five million computer owners affected in California. Both IBM and Dixons, the UK electronics retailer, refused to comment on the implications.



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Year 2000 - Software Development - Multimedia - Applications Management - Migrations/Re-engineering

this critical period.

## A London-based law firm has joined forces with a systems company to identify problems Doubling up for added effect

himself the luckiest of information technology directors. Unlike so many who have £100,000 we have spent on the encountered difficulty in perthe millennium bug is a serious problem that needs tackling now. Roberts has the managing director of Simmons & Simmons, the international law firm for which he works, as the spons-or of his year 2000 project, Tony Dawe writes.

The IT committee on which he serves also contains senior partners of the London-based firm. "I am in an ideal situation with senior people in the firm sponsoring the project and pushing me," he we have gathered, it has been reasonably easy to obtain the project so far and to get the

financial year." Simmons & Simmons' approach to the problem has been to enter into partnership with SHL Systemhouse to identify the issues to be tackled and to overcome them without having to replace existing computer systems.

"The decision to work with SHL was taken early on because the company was already working on a project to assimilate our systems," says Roberts. Finding the right partner is one of the

#### CASE STUDY

most important elements of a year 2000 project because you answers on your own, however hard you try."

SHL started by carrying out an audit of hardware and software in the law firm's ten international offices and has so far identified 1,200 personal computers and 22,000 items of hardware linked to ten servers. Within this environment, the audit found 22 major classes of software in use and more than 17,000 licensed applications.

The next stage was to determine the year 2000 com-

was done by contacting manufacturers for a compliancy statement and checking their Internet pages for compliancy The audit found that oper-

ating systems, network operating systems and server hackup software all had potential problems with the century date change and that the major office software package with 1,000 licences and other common applications all required upgrades to cope with the millennium bug.

"Most of the applications can be upgraded and fixed and we are fortunate to have no legacy systems," says Roberts. "Upgrades to existing

part of normal maintenance although some additional work is required but, with SHL, we have the manpower changes into place during the coming year. Where upgrades cannot be achieved, alternative solutions are being investigated." "The most important mess-

age to come across from this project is that good information is required to make informed decisions," adds James McDougal, SHL's project manager. "It is vital to understand the scale of the problem and to plan the work in a structured manner across all areas of the business."

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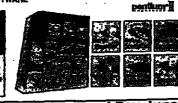
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#### Getting ready for that big date

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 Take a complete inventory of all computer and security systems, telephone equipment, vault door locks and anything that may be controlled electronically using date information.

 Think about electronic data exchanges with customers and suppliers. Address the problem in oritised chunks. • Consider the longer term when selecting year 2000 software tools; many of them may have a

future use. • Plan to complete the project by the end of 1998, so that software will be running live for 12 months before 2000 arrives.

#### DON'T...

 Underestimate the size of the problem which may exist outside the environment controlled by IT.

• Spend too much time examining the options. choosing partners or evaluating software: get the job done now. Believe solutions are going to get cheaper.

Think you can out-

source the whole problem. ◆Assume all your IT suppliers are taking the problem as seriously as you; check they will be ready as well.



**BUSINESS** CONTINUITY

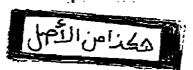
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**OPERA:** With London's musical life in turmoil, the haven of Glyndebourne is proving attractive to restless spirits. The shortlist for the vacant job of general administrator of the private opera house is said to include such luminaries as Nicholas Payne, boss of the Royal Opera. Nicholas Snowman, maestro of the South Bank Centre, and Serge Dorny, manager of the London Philharmonic. George Christie. Glyndebourne's owner. will clearly need to conduct interviews in sunglasses. lest he be dazzled by the lustre

LITERATURE: Douglas Hurd, prolific novelist and sometime Foreign Secretary, will be the chairman of judges for the 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction. "I feel like a young subaltern selected to lead a platoen on a particularly dangerous mission." he says.

of the applicants.

RECORDING: For the first time in 70 years a record company has issued a new 78rpm vinvi disc made by musicians recording directly onto way. The company is EMI, and this bold leap into the prehistoric past of recorded sound has been made to celebrate the label's centenary. On the 78rpm disc. which comes complete with the old red label depicting the dog listening to "His Muster's Voice", the tenor Roberto Alagna sings an aria from Pagliacci and a ballad by Gastaldon. The package also includes a modern CD and video of the event.

THEATRE: The stricken Liverpool Playhouse. currently in the hands of a court administrator, will benefit from a gala next Monday. Pauline Daniels. Ken Dodd, Gerry and the Pacemakers, the cast of **Brookside** and members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be among those raising cash for the theatre, which will close permanently on January 3 unless a saviour can be found. Information from Lizzie-Anne Meachin, 0151-709 8478.

BROADWAY: Natasha Richardson, who hasn't sung on stage since appearing production of High when Sam Mendes's production of Cabaret opens in New York in February. Alan Cumming plays the Master of Ceremonies, a part he took in Mendes's 1993 Donmar Warehouse staging. Cabaret will mark Mendes's Broadway directing debut.

# ERIEFLY NOTED Lure of Sussex With London's Will the glass Wave hit a concrete wall?

It is now-or-never day for Lord Rogers's vast South

Bank roof. Marcus Binney weighs up its pros and cons

oday the Arts Council faces the most difficult decision in its history: whether to approve in whole, or in part, a £113 million grant to London's South Bank Centre. The size of the sum eclipses the £78.5 million given to the Royal Opera House. As yet another London project, it may prove even more explosive,

The grant represents three-quarters of the total E151 million estimated building costs for development of the Festival Hall and six other venues, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Hayward Gallery, the Purcell Room, the Literature Centre, a new IT centre, and a new informal performance space, all brought together under a sensational wave glass roof designed by the Richard Rogers Partnership.

The easiest part is the Festival Hall. Here the Arts Council will be sharing the costs with the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has already agreed in principle to a contribution of £20 million. The architects in charge, Allies and Morrison. have already shown that they can provide value for money — opening up the stylish People's Palace restaurant on the riverfront and recreating the original transparency of the building by a simple policy of allowing no one to place anything against the windows. Graham Morrison explains:

Our aim is a complete refurbishment of the building to its condition on opening in 1951. We can greatly improve the acoustics in the auditorium, which were excellent at the start. The problem is that much of the sound is now absorbed by inappropriate surfaces. We will sand down and polish the wood, give it a more solid backing so that it will be more reflective."

The second great change will be to restore the original system of circulation. "In 1951 the river terrace was a place to go to, not to enter by. The clarity of the plan is lost. Today you don't see the staircases till you are well into the the interface with the Festival building." says Morrison. They plan to reinstate the original ground-floor entrance opposite the Hayward as the main entrance, and restore the upper-level entrance opening off a newly transformed

Hungerford Bridge.

reopen the roof terraces. "The accommodation at the top of the building was taken over when the administration was moved out of the old GLC building. Up here are the best views in London, with sunset over the Palace of Westminster and a panorama swinging

right round to the dome of St

Paul's." says Morrison.

The hard part of the Arts Council decision centres on contributing three-quarters of the £108 million needed for Lord Rogers's glass roof and everything within it. Almost everyone agrees that there is a desperate need to make the whole South Bank more attractive, thereby bringing in more people. Jo Kennedy, the project director, says: "Research shows that 95 per cent of people say the South Bank environment is appalling and puts them off coming." The Arts Council aim is to increase annual visitors to the South Bank Centre from 3.3 million

The brief called for something akin to the Pompidou Centre in Paris. So it is not surprising that Richard Rogers was chosen as the winner. He has always thought big. His wave roof is potentially the most beautiful London landmark of the millennium. taking the tradition of the 19thcentury iron and glass station roof, and transforming it into futuristic saddle shape which will look dramatically different from every angle.

And besides transforming the windswept, dangerous and dingy concrete walkways that surround the site, the roof would also have the virtue of covering up the now deeply unfashionable brutalist architecture of the Hayward and Queen Elizabeth Hall. Few would regret that: many would reioice.

But the arguments against the Rogers scheme are formidable. Än Arts Council insider comments: "The Allies and Morrison proposals were well documented and thoroughly researched. The Rogers scheme was more sketchy and less precise, particularly on Hali."

It is precisely this which works Margaret Richardson, the president of the Twentieth Century Society, into anger. "The Rogers wave roof rises so high that it will swamp the Festival Hall. Glass is only Best of all they intend to transparent when lit internally. For most of the time this will be perceived as a solid mass interrupting important views along the river."

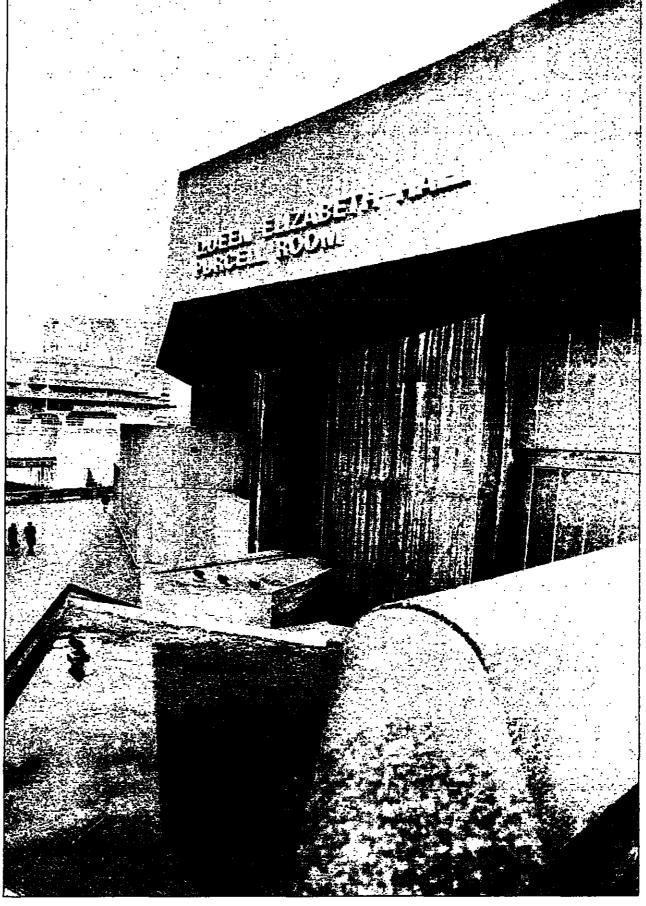
Even Morrison acknowledges: "The view of St Paul's from the Festival Hall roof depends on complete transparency." One way to reduce the impact might be to remove the tail of the "wave" from in front of the Festival Hall, leaving the riverfront of the Festival Hall in full view across the Thames.

The objection to the Rogers plan is made forcefully by Terry Farrell, perhaps not surprisingly, since his initial proposals for the South Bank were costed at a modest £15 million. Farrell, who also proposed an overall roof, says: "I hated and wished to undo the mega-architecture which wrapped the Festival Hall and the whole site in octopus tentacles of the same concrete design. I am concerned the Rogers scheme may be perceived as doing the same, enveloping the whole site in one kind of architecture."

arrell placed a priority on creating an outdoor open space between the Festival Hall and the Hayward. By contrast the sheer height of the Rogers glass roof means it meets the Festival Hall at second floor level. Morrison, however, is not worried about the lack of an individual entrance for the Festival Hall, "We'll share the foyer with the other

While the Arts Council can easily agree a phased plan for the Festival Hall, it is all or nothing with the Rogers roof.
And if it is nothing there is the
risk of losing Paul Hamlyn's
astounding offer of £17 million
towards the scheme. It can be argued that all

Rogers's main buildings have been flawed: the Pompidou Centre because of the huge cost of maintenance; and the Lloyds Building because the brokers came close to moving out of it altogether. Yet the fact remains that these are among The Arts Council has £200 million to spend on large-scale projects of national significance between 1998 and 2006. It requires colossal political courage to back the Rogers scheme - but there will never be a more prominent site, or one with the potential to attract more visitors.





The brutalist concrete of the Queen Elizabeth Hall (top) would be transformed by Lord Rogers's glass roof (below)

**CONCERTS:** Violinist Sarah Chang grows up dazzlingly; Haitink unites exiles; hearing problems

## Fine display of everything but the girl

seemed. In a cunningly devised programme, the violinist Sarah Chang's recital unfolded a series of transformations: a violin sonata which really belonged to a flute, a piano solo transfigured, and an opera extravaganza with violin as diva.

The evening had begun with the high-profile prodigy deferring to her pianist in the C major Sonata (K296) Mozart had written for the harpsichord or pianoforte, with the accompaniment of a violin". Unfortunately. Charles

lin's alto singing, its accompanying figures and long sustained notes rang out almost crudely in the presence of a pianist self-effacing almost to vanishing point.

The transformation which really mattered, though, was that of Chang herself. The rapt little girl in the party frock has become the beautiful young woman in the designer gowns - two of them per evening, it seems. And her Richard Strauss Sonata for Violin and Piano in E flat, following the Mozart, confirmed that, for

Sarah Chang Barbican \*\*

the time being, the blithe melodic freedom of the child has gone, and with it the sense of wonder and delight which was so much a mark of her playing. In its place is a resilient, high-energy virtuosity which travels well and, I suspect, is pretty crease-resis-

Chang is now 16, and the musical adolescence of a prodigy is, after all, one of the trickiest times of all. Prokofiev's Sonata No 2, which she No 20 in C sharp minor returned to after the interval. recasts its original flute writing in such a way as to exercise every muscle of the violin, particularly in the breadth of

its Kazakh folk melodies, and

the vigour of its finale.

Chang certainly gave it a good work-out. But one can only hope that once she has got through a period of what feels like survival, some of that sense of delight and surprise in sound itself, and some of that original buoyancy of both bow and imagination, will

Chang's Chopin Nocturne

vealed a beautifully controlled line and a particularly eloquent dark, low register. For his part. Abramovic seemed almost relieved that Nathan Milstein's arrangement had

deprived him of any res-ponsibility for the melody. His call to attention at the start of Sarasate's Carmen Fantasy was a limp curtainraiser to what proved to be a strenuous medley of tunes and technique, which was sadly lacking in either subtlety or

HILARY FINCH

Festival Hall

LPO/Haitink

**Paradise** 

retained

BERNARD HAITINK'S concerts with the London Philharmonic are usually red-letter dates in the orchestra's diary, and Sunday's was no exception. It featured a typically thoughtful programme, bringing Britten's Les Illuminations and Mahler's Symphony No 4 together under one of the season's themes, the composer in exile. Both these composers spent a significant period in America: although his Fourth was written before the outsider Mahler was driven from Vienna. Les Illuminations was the first work Britten completed abroad.

Both works also call for a soprano soloist, and Janice Watson displayed her versatility while being especially radiant in the Britten. The song cycle's brilliance of sound derives from the combination of its strings-only accompaniment and a bright soprano such

as Watson's, and she spun long lines of pure, golden tone. Her soft singing was exquisitely controlled, but sometimes it seemed as if beauty of tone was at the expense of verbal clarity in Rimbaud's poetry.
The LPO strings were on splendidly

incisive form, responsive to every demand Haitink made from the podium. Together they caught the imagery of each number. from the racing energy of the beginning to the resignation of the end and the dark austerity along the way.

Haitink's account of the Mahler was also dark - but slow and deliberate. The journey the symphony depicts through fantasy land towards a child's Paradise was less carefree than often: rather than playing up the nightmar-ish episodes. Haitink cast clouds over the supposedly happier ones. He painted in the detail with particularly vivid orchestral contributions and the leader Joakim Svenheden's menacing. mistuned solos in the scherzo were highly effective. Watson's words could once again have been sharper and perhaps then her playful song might have sounded less generalised. But, supported by refined playing, she sang glowingly at the close as Para-dise was at last attained.

JOHN ALLISON

#### Mahler in recession

RSNO/Lazarev Edinburgh

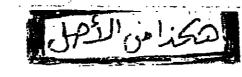
ALTHOUGH a considerable asset to the city in other ways, the Edinburgh Festival Theatre is not a great place for orchestral concerts. The acoustics are discouragingly dry and the shape of the stage does not suit the layout of a large modern orchestra. So why has the Royal Scottish National Orchestra abandoned the Usher Hall to play

The ironic answer is that, having made all the necessary arrangements for an alternative Edinburgh venue well in advance of the scheduled closure for refurbishment of the Usher Hall, the RSNO found that the City Council's application for National Lottery funds had been rejected and work on the hall indefinitely postponed. By then it was too late to correct the situation and the orchestra now has to go through with it, whether the

While it is obviously bad luck for the RSNO, it is probably also true that more could be done to improve the Festival Theatre acoustics. As a performance of Mahler's Seventh Symphony vividly demonstrated, the strings in general and the violins in particular are at a severe disadvantage. It is not all loss, however. The two "Night Music movements, where the strings have a more chamber-like role to play. were heard with unusual clarity. The outer movements, on the other hand. were starved of expressive and muscular nourishment.

Some aspect of these impressions must, of course, be attributable to Alexander Lazarev's interpretation Happily, he does not distort Mahler as he tends to distort Brahms. On the contrary, he treats the score with immense respect. He seems, however, to have little instinctive feeling for the Mahler idiom and personality. In spite of some fairly specious rubato in one of the more lyrical passages, he treated the first movement much as one might approach a Shostakovich first movement, with long-term patience rather than bar-by-bar inspiration. As for the problems associated with the finale, a determination to get through it as quickly as possible is not the answer.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES · TRIBUTE QUEEN - GEORGE MICHAEL - ANNIE LENNOT SINEAD O'CONNOR - PASSENGERS / PAVAROTTI BRYAN FERRY - PAUL MCGARINEY - ERIC CLAPTON - R.E.M. BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN MEIL FINN - THE PRETENDERS - NOD STEWART - PETER GABRIEL - ENYA - BARBRA STREISAND CLIFF RICHARD - SPICE GIRLS - GLORIA ESTEFAN - SIMPLY RED - MICHAEL BOLTON / PLACIDO DOMINGO LESLEY GARRETT . CHICAEN SHED DOUBLE COMPACT DISC . DOUBLE CASSETTE . DOUBLE MINIDISC PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THIS ALBUM GO DIRECTLY TO THE DIAMA, PRINCESS OF WALES MEMORIAL FUND REGISTERED CHARITY N°. 1064238 http://www.dlanatributealbom.com



As London prepares to hold The Front Page again, Joe Joseph exposes the truth behind the myth of the hack as hero

هكذامن الإمل

# I ype cast as a paper lion

he really thrilling part of being a journalist is that when momentous world events unfold you can find yourself bang in the thick of the action. This means you could be standing so close to powerful world leaders that you can actually ask them, straight to their face, key journalist questions such as: "Mr President, do you happen to possess an international telephone jack that would enable me to use my computer to file 1,200 words back to my newsdesk?"

That's what makes watching portrayals of journalists on stage and in movies so enthralling. The creature who materialises before you is almost always an indefatigable seeker after truth; a champion of good over evil; more cunning than a fox; wittier than Woody Allen; a whizz with women.

But when most journalists look in the mirror, they don't see this mirage. What they see is a person who spends their working day devising headlines for stories about a council plan to pedestrianise the bit of Mansfield Avenue outside the new Marks & Spencer's.

Not that any of this ever dents the public's appetite for newspaper movies in general, and for The Front Page in particular. Cynicism, humour, fast dialogue and a softspot for the profession by the two former hacks who wrote it have made The Front Page the most successful newspaper story ever told. And retold.

Now nearly 70 years old, the play is being revived once again. Griff Rhys Jones plays the star role of Hildy Johnson. You know Hildy; he's the ace Chicago reporter who is about to leave newspapers for a new life as a married man with a genteel job in advertising when his editor, Walter Burns (played by Alun Armstrong), persuades him to cover the last hanging to be staged in the state before the introduction of the

en Hecht and Chares MacArthur, the two journalists-turned-screenwriters who wrote it, had intended to be brutal about the brash world of tabloid journalism that they had both got to know so well. But they must have weakened spawning, in their wake, a Hollywood factory of movie journalists who are courageous and clever, hard-drinking but diligent, and morally hot about injustice. Part detective, and cooler than cowboys, hacks became a reliable Hollywood

But from All The President's Men to Welcome to Saraievo; from Citizen Kane to Frank Capra's It Happened One Night; from Kirk Douglas in Billy Wilder's Ace in the Hole to Burt Lancaster in Sweet Smell of Success; and from The Year Of Living Dangerously and The Killing Fields to La Dolce Vita, Bonfire Of The Vanities and The Paper, screen journalists have rarely been fully believable. At least not to anyone who has worked in a



Cary Grant as Walter Burns and Rosalind Russell as a distaff Hildy Johnson swap wisecracks over a hot typewriter in His Girl Friday, adapted from The Front Page

the next plane out of Heathrow.

can't turn a train into a plane. I see a

This is because what journalists actually do would not make very exciting cinema. Very few journalists get around to deposing deceitful presidents of America. Even fewer sneak into telephone kiosks and change into Superman. In reality, what most journalists do is sit around for much of the day smoking each other's cigarettes and drinking coffee from special vending machines which recreate the authentic flavour of coffee, providing coffee is supposed to taste like it was made from mud, hot water and Tippex correction fluid. Naturally, we all strive for accuracy. But where absolute truth is impossible to pin down, your average responsible journalist will always check with at least two reliable colleagues that what they are about to write sounds plausible enough to get past the

It really is great to hear Hum-

phrey Bogart, playing a newspaper managing editor in the 1952 film Deadline, telling a wide-eyed cub reporter: "So you wanna be a reporter. Here's a bit of advice. Don't ever change your mind. It may not be the oldest profession, but it's the best." If it ever brings a teeny tear to a journalist's eye, it's only because they're laughing so much.

You find even the most elegant writers stumbling when they face the hurdle of casting a journalist. Tom Stoppard's play Night and Day has always struck me as among his creakiest. Earlier this year Alan Bleasdale, one of Britain's finest television dramatists, created for us the award-winning war correspondent Guy Foster when he updated Francis Durbridge's whodunnit,

Foster was the deluxe Fleet Street model from central casting. He furned about injustice; he had a

vodka problem; he still used a a plane all day." Well, honestly, manual, portable typewriter, he hungered after "truth". When, while what could you possibly say, except that sitting indoors wasn't going to help. The lad should have got walking past a TV shop while out shopping, he caught sight of a war himself to Gatwick, and pronto. report on the news, he dramatically Even Lou Grant, everyone's favourite TV hack, was a preposterous dropped his carrier bag full of Fairy

Liquid and Weetabix and jumped on confection. Presumably we were not supposed even to notice that Ed Disillusioned with journalism. Asner had changed from a comic Foster then tried (unsuccessfully) to newsroom boss in The Mary Tyler write a novel, which was really just Moore Show to a serious-minded, a pretext to deliver this outburst: crusading news editor when he moved from Minneapolis to the Los "I've spent 14 years of my working life attempting to write the truth ... Angeles Tribune and got his own Avoiding anything that was made show. Suddenly Lou had a social conscience, reflected in everything up, or mixed up, or coming with spin. Writing fiction is basically all from scripts dealing with rape and about the art of lying, skilfully ... It prostitution to his policy of hiring should be easy now. For the very human misfits such as Joe "Scoop" first time since I last wrote fiction I Rossi and Animal, the staff have permission to cheat and to lie. I photographer. can't cheat. I can't lie. I can't fly. I Asner's newshounds weren't jour-

nalists. They were romantic, surrogate detectives, chasing and

exposing crime and wrongdoing. This is partly because exposing crime and wrongdoing gives a show some zip, and partly because a film depicting traditional journalistic office pastimes - tossing press releases in the bin, whining about why the fax machine is always jammed and sniggering about what their rivals on other newspapers decided constituted snappy news that morning - would make a series of altogether 100 gritty realism.

But don't go thinking there is any risk that Hollywood will fall out of love with the newspaper movie any time soon. Why? Not because it adores journalists. Rather more because, as Matthew Arnold noted, 'journalism is literature in a hurry" which happens to be just how the movie business likes its literature. ● The Front Page is in preview at the Donmar Warehouse, London WC2 (0171-

369 1732) from tonight

# Misery begins at home

THE gloomiest corner of the Royal Court's New European Writers' Season is squatted by Dea Loher, a German writer with the same God-forsaken humour as Heiner Müller at his most depressed. It is a no man's land of dead leaves, cigarette ends, dim lighting and toppled chairs. Yet this anonymous armpit of industrial Germany is the promised land for Yanne, a young Macedonian who has dodged the call-up in Yugoslavia.

He seeks refuge with a family of impoverished Macedonian exiles, hoping that the revolutionary credentials of his father will ease his passage. The stooped figure of Hristo, after all, fought alongside his father. Yanne finds instead a family whose re-spectability and idealism is uilt on a lifetime of secrets

Bald, beak-nosed and bitter. Christopher Ettridge's Hristo deeply resents Yanne's

### Stranger's House

**Ambassadors** 

esence. His wife, T*ere*se Gillian Hanna), it transpires, does a little prostitution on the side. "It's just a business. It keeps me alive," she says. "I don't think your private life's any of my business," protests Yanne. "It is, it is," shouts Terese. And she's right: Yanne occupies the room she uses to earn the cash. It is a discomfiting moment, one of the few to shed light on the play's themes

Mary Peate's production looks at other moments like a orch with a dying battery. l'erese's daughter Agnes falls for Yanne's elusive Macedonian charm. Her sleazy husband, Jörg, seethes with unconvincing cowardly rage. But the soundtrack of dripping water, passing traffic and echoey voices proves more unsettling than the performances themselves.

Loher's bleak vision of Germany is unmistakeably cynical. Yanne's presence gradually becomes as much a source of prickling conscience as it is an excuse for animosity. As his expectations of his adopted home become tarnished, so does he.

Rhys maps this transition much more convincingly than his relationships. Only Caroline O'Neill's sexy jaded bar owner seems happy to see him. Everyone else desires or avoids the need for atonement. When it comes, after 90 minutes, the relief around the theatre is palpable.

> JAMES CHRISTOPHER

# Happy coincidences

This is one of the three theatres being driven on the rocks by the London Arts Board's decision to take all the funding that might have gone to them in order to heap it upon a fourth. Greenwich, the Gate and the King's Head will therefore be left to shrivel. The action of the LAB is indefensible, and no defence has come forth from a board that contains only one active worker in the arts.

This version of Dickens's semi-autobiography will pre-sumably be the last work Matthew Francis adapts and directs here. Inevitably, compression emphasises coincidence. David no sooner steps along a city street than he meets a crucial somebody from his past. Everybody rurns out to be connected with everyone else, but where the sheer extent of the 650-page novel reduces the oddness of this, on the stage the unspoken suggestion that life is simple is a nuisance. The multiple interconnec-

tions of the story are visually interpreted in Lez Brothersion's set, where a double



staircase of various kinds of steps climbs around the stage by way of bedrooms, offices and upturned boats, while more steps come forward to a . seashore and ropes hang overhead for later use in the storm where Steerforth meets his death. This staging helps Francis's own swift succession of scenes, which flow smoothly into one another, too suavely when the passage of years is required but reminiscent of the way people do disappear from immediate experience.

The book, and now the play, contains some unforgettable characters, most of them equipped with a personal catchphrase as though they were turns in a radio comedy: "Donkeys!" "Something will turn up." "Ever so umble." David himself is a wet. Francis is probably right to leave out the statement that this dewyeyed chap ends up as a famous

beggars belief, and still more does it seem incredible when watching the hero blithely fail to understand the nature of people until well into his twenties.

Learning to look beyond the superficial is a major theme. but since the adaptation is required to show us what is in front of his unobservant eyes, the hero inevitably turns into someone weirdly slow-witted. Curiously, while Damien Matthews as the adult David emphasises the naivety, his vounger self (Paul Bailey). who remains present throughout the play — a good toch — preserves a clearer vision.

These reservations aside, the production creates a pleasant evening, greatly helped by the performances of Peter-Hugo Daly as a Uriah Heep bent like a crushed question mark, Des McAleer and Brian Poyser as Messrs Micawber and Dick, and an array of matrons, bristling or batty, from Miranda Kingsley and

JEREMY KINGSTON



Paul Bailey and Damien Matthews - two David Copperfields for the price of one at Greenwich

### **GREAT BRITISH HOPES**

Rising stars in the arts firmament

**DANIEL EVANS** 

Age: 24. Profession: Actor.

Flying high: He's playing Peter Pan in the National Theatre's new production directed by John Caird, which opens next Tuesday. Rehearsals were "really thrilling," according to Evans. The set of Guys and Dolls was still up in the Olivier, so it was like flying through Manhattan.'

Child's play: "We had children in for a day, making little playlets with us. We were supposed to observe, but everyone just regressed. But the play is moving: it's about

Perpetual youth? He left Guildhall School of Music and Drama early, in 1994, to play the Boy in the RSC's Henry V and Flute in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Then he was a teenager in

Peter Gill's Cardiff East at the National and is now playing Petya, the youngest Rostoff, in Radio 4's War and Peace. "I look forward to growing up one day."

Welsh connection: Brought up in the Rhondda Valley, he won prizes for verse-speaking at the National Eisteddfod in 1990 and 1992. "Welsh is my first language. My parents are both teachers, my eldest brother is a surgeon, the next a dentist. I'm the weirdo of the family."

National debut: He strode the Olivier stage in 1990 for the Lloyds Bank Theatre Challenge for young people
— in Welsh. "It was a musical and I played a politician, who was also a preacher and

Heroes? "My teacher wrote to Ian McKellen in the 1980s. He agreed to meet me and

was terribly kind and kept in



touch. It's bizarre working with him [McKellen plays Hook in the new production). Otherwise my heroes tend to change, but Mark Rylance's Hamler was fantastic."

Screen credits: Kerry Sherlock's Welsh-language Cameleon, which did well at the Berlin festival. "I play the brother of a Second World War deserter."

Ultimate ambition: "I'd like to have a company of my own and do the classics in Welsh."

HEATHER NEILL

HE WAS friends with everybody that he smoked dope with, and he has smoked dope with everybody. Howard Marks is a very nice man. The PLO, the IRA and the Mob all loved him; they carried his drugs, they stopped his ass gening whipped in prison.

Today, it seems, we love him 100. The British have always been suckers for a gentleman criminal and Howard Marks is one of the finest: Oxford, Mio, and a voice as rich as the resin that made him his absent millions.

Now he wants to share a joint with the rest of the world. The thick smoke exhaled by the crowd sharing An Evening With Howard Marks at the Shepherds Bush Empire owed more to Philip Morris than Pablo Escobar, but the sight of the man puffing away

# Dope friend

on stage provoked the kind of hysteria normally reserved for

COMEDY

striptease. For a glorified book reading the evening did have a curiously pornographic feel. Tales of smuggling were illustrated with slides of raw hashish arranged in a variety of provocative poses. Yet Marks's skills extend far beyond being able to stay vertical after chain-smoking marijuana cigarettes. The man based a career on talking himself into some of the world's most

dangerous situations and boy, can he talk.

It would be a shame if his drug-smuggling tales kept his audience restricted to dope fetishists. He is a compelling raconteur with a ragged sexi-ness. Had he not turned to smuggling he probably would have made a fine politician. He fielded questions with a measured charm that would go down a storm in the House.

Unfortunately, his audience does not have his taste for intelligent discussion. In such an atmosphere of mob rule it was impossible to voice the questions that should have been asked. Marijuana may never have killed anybody. but the organisations it funded most certainly did. So who was responsible for that?

HETTIE JUDAH



'a revelation ... impossible to fault' Rodney Milnes, The Times 1997

'a triumph \_ I laughed, I cried, I cheered, I came out walking on air' Ropert Christiansen, The Daily Telegraph 1997

Once in a while the odd thing happens...

Benjamin Britten & W.H. Auden's Broadway Opera

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE 0171-379 5399 or 0171-304 4000 Ticketmaster 0171-957 4020

**New Production** 

10 11 13 15 17 December Tickets from: £10

preview, page 37 Dominar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732), Proviews foright Fri. 7.30pm Opens Mon, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sal, 3pm LITTLE EYOLF, Territic playing by Robert Glanster and Jonathe Postor of Robert Glenister and Joanne Pi the heart of Adnan Noble s suo tosen production. Guilt, remorse and

renewal on the flord
PR, Barbucar Contre, Silk St. 502
(0171-638 8891), Provious From for
7 15pm Opens Mon, 7pm in rep LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Bernard Harlink's ST930 hand welds the bason in this concent by the LPO. The programme opers with

Mozart's Franc Concerto in C minor Mana Joan Pires as soloist. In the evening's second half the orchestra is joined by the BBC Singers for a parties by the Bookships in Complete performance of Ravel's Daphris and Chief, a work first brought to larme by Desphilev's Russian Ballet. Featilized Half, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7 30pm. SHERYL CROW After a bulkant year

outmination and a disease year outmination and a state of the singer-enter of the theme time to the latest dames, Bond move freeleased this Finday), the classically-trained supersiantom Missouri concludes her British four with a concert here Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middleses (0181-900 1234) Tonight, 7 30pm D ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra o poned by the Canadian percussion insemble Nexus in a performance of

■ ART Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about frendship unspoken resentment and an aimost al-White paining
Wyndham's, Channg Cross Road
WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat Spm:
mats Wed 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

BAZAAR: A Moroccan immorant in Spain longs to become lamous in David Planell's play, part of the New European Writing season With Adnan Etmondson, Nitzan Sharron and Ntcholas Woodeson Royal Court Upstairs (Ambassadors). West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000) in rep longht, Dec 13, 16, 19, 8pm

THE BOYS IN THE BAND Mar Crowley's ground-breaking gay play from 1968 now something of a penad term 1988 now somerang or a person pede with its "gay means with but wretched message Transfer from the king's Head, Isington Aldwych. The Adonych. WC2 (0171-416 6003) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mars Thur and Sat, 3pm

IN CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING Firs big London revival for Amold Wesker's 1962 play about class discontent and unthinking obedience in the armed forces. With Julian Glover and Rupert Perry-Jones. Directed by Howard Dewise who might make the untkely tolksong scene work.

National (Lytielton) South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 (252) Tonight-Sat, 7 30pm, mar Sat, 2 15pm Ends Sat

A DELICATE BALANCE: Elect Alkin: hauntingly chiting in welcome revival of Albee's play about mamage parenthood and neighbourtness. Maggle Smith plays the drunk sister

**NEW RELEASES** 

◆ THE BORROWERS (U) Minuscule scavengers both for their home Exhitarating family film, much adapted from the children's classic. With John Goodman, Jim Broadbert. Director. Peter Hewit Barblean (a) (0171-638 8891) Odeons:

Kensington (0181-315-4214) Marble Arch (0181-215-4216) Swites Cotties (0181-315-4220) Piezza (§ 10990-888990 UCI Whiteleys (§ 10890-888990) Virgin Trocadero (§ 10181-970-6015) Warner (§ 10171-437-4343)

warner (g) (1/1-13/1-33/1-33/1-3)

COP LAND (15): Lazy sherrif
ponders what to do about corrupt cops
Flaved but absorbing drama, with
Sylvester Statione, Hanvey Kereti, Robert
De Niro Director, James Mangold
Greenwich (10181-23/5-3005) Dideones
Canden Town (10181-315-4214) Marble
Arch (10181-315-4214) Marble
Arch (10181-315-4216) Person (20181-316-4220) Person (20181-316-4220) (0181-315 4220) Plaza (5) (0990 898990) Rikzy (0171-737 2121) Screen/Selter Street (0171-935 2772) Screen/Selter Street (0171-935 2772) Screen/Selter (0190 888990) Virgins: Chelesa (0171-382 5096) Trocadero (6)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U) Frank new print. With James Stewart as the doubling do-gooder. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Curzon West End (0171-369 1722)

MARIUS ET JEANNETTE (15). Like and love in Marsades, inconsequential concoction, weak on plot, strong on TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

Toru Takemisu's From Me Flows What You Call Time Also on the programme are Rave's Valses Nobles et Sontmentales and Deday. Jamentales and Berlioz's entravacant

Symphony Haff, Broad Street, (0121-212 3333) Tonight, 7 30pm (5) GLASGOW: Natasha Parry plays Becken's Winne, eventually embedded up to her neck in earth in Oh Les Beeux Jours. Peler Brook's Pans production visus here after its strit in London Performed in French.



Superstar Sheryl Crow performs at Wembley

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London House full, returns only Some seats available Seats at all prices

Anthony Page directs Theatire Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800), Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm (2) FAME: TV and film som-off about N FAME: 1V and iam sper-off about young hopefuls from the New York School of the Parlorming Arts. Tourng company in London for ten weeks Victoria Palace, Victoria St. SW1 (0171-834 1317) Mon-Thui, 7 30pm, Fn, 5 30pm and 8 pm, Sat. 3pm and 7 30pm Until Jan 17

A GRAND NIGHT OUT, Wallace and Gromit take to the stage for Christimas, pursued to London by the Penguin, escaped from goal and bent on revenge. Nick Park's characters put through times paces by the Thunderbirds.

PAB learn.
Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street, off
kurgsvay, WC2 (0171-494 5090) MonSat, 7 30pm mat Sat, 3pm From Dec
19 mats almost daily ■ HERITAGE George Cole plays a

military reasoner in a London retrement home, with Tim Pigoti-Smith and Gwen Taylor as his son and daughter, each edult at a time of change. Mark. Rayment directs new play by Stephen Churchett, author of Torn and Clern

0055) . Royal Academy: Victorian Fairy Pentang (0171-439 7438) Tate The Turner Prop 1997 Exhibition (0171-887-8000) . V & A. Carl and Karn Lansson (0171-938 6349/8441)

Transway, Albert Drive (0141-227 5511). Tonight-Fir. 8cm 🔕

music director, conducts.

Bridgewater Half, Lower Mosley
Street (0161-907-9000), Toroght,
tomorrow and Sun, 7 30pm. 5

MEWCASTLE: Jean-Bernard Pormine

displays his Gallic flar as he conducts the Northern Sinfonia and the

Sinforia Chorus in a programma featuring Mozan's Symphony No 29 in A: Liebeskeder Walzes and Song of

Symphony No 2: City Hell, Northamberland Road (0191-261 2606), Torright, 7 45pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Philip

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside (01789 295623) Opens

Barblean: Don McCulin (0171-638 8891) British Museum: Modern

8891) British Museum: Modern Chinese Caligraph; (0171-323 8525) ... Dasign Museum: A tour of brycle

Dealgn Museum: A tour of boycle design history (0171-378 5055)
- Haywerd: Objects of Dosare (0171-928 3144)
- Marit: Royal Institute of Oli Parniers (0171-930 6844)
- Museum of London: Bedlem: Custody, care and cure, 1247-1997 (0171-800 9907)
- Nettional: Hogarth's Marnage Ala-Mode (0171-147 2885)
- National: Portrait: Strienry Raebum (0171-308

LONDON GALLERIES

Voss plays Shylock for the first time, with Helen Schlesinger as Portia in Gregory Deran's production of The Merchant Of Vertice

ms; and Schumann's

striy by Brahm mohony No 2

MANCHESTER Solvets from the European Opera Centre join the Halfe Orchastra in the first of three concent performences of Puocati's subtime tagli opera, Tasca, Kent Nagano, the Halfe's

Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3 30pm, [6] ☐ THE MAGISTRATE: lan Richardson plays the much harassed hero of Pinero's evergreen farce Nicholas Broadhurst's cast from

Nicholas Broadhurst's cast from Chuchester includes Graham Crowden, Abigail McKern, Frank Middlemass and John Paddlen Sarvoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Wed and Section 2016.

☐ THE SLOW DRAG: Jazz musical by Carson Krerzer, loosely based on the story of Billy Tipton, a woman who passed as a man to find work as a jazz. musician Luca Sadowy joins Kim Criswell and Christopher Colquinoun from Lisa Forrell's Freedom Cafe production earlier this year. Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1736) Mon-Thur, 9pm, Fn and Sal. 7pm and 9,30pm. **LONG RUNNERS** 

EONG HONNEHS

Bloddy Strand (0171-930 8800)

Cate: New London (0171-905
0072)

Grease Cambridge
(0171-494 5080)

Lis Misérables: Palace (0171-434
0909)

Mises Salgon Drury Lane
(0171-494 6400)

Housetrep St Martin's (0171-836
1443)

Diver: Palladium (0171-494 5020)

Startight Express
Apollo Victora (0171-416 6054)

The Woman in Black, Fortune
(0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

### CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆ ) on release across the country

local colour Director, Robert Guediguan ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) PARADISE ROAD (15), Women PoWs n Sumatra keep up their courage by forming a choir Reasonably upfitting drama, with Glenn Close and Pauline Collins Director, Bruce Beresford ABC Shaftesbury Av (0171-836 8279) THIS WORLD, THEN THE FIREWORKS (18): Callous, over stylised film nor about twin siblings in

Director, Michael Oblowitz. ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) CURRENT ◆ ALIEN RESURRECTION (18):

ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Greenwich (0181-235 3005) Ode Camdon Town (0181-315 4255) Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) West End (0181-315 4221) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (5) (0990 888990) Virgin Chelses (0171-352 5096)

◆ THE FULL MONTY (15)
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# Sweet with touch of sour

nglish National Bal-let has plenty of reasons to cherish the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. As the company's patron for eight years, she helped to raise the company's profile and bolster its spirits. More than just a name on the letterhead, she took a real interest in the daily life of the company, often popping in to ENB's headquarters just across the road from Kensington Palace. There she would chat to dancers and wardrobe staff, sit in on rehearsals, or enjoy a

> The Nuteracker Coliseum

private ballet class in the company's studios.

All this we were told in a tenminute filmed tribute to the "dancing princess" which launched ENB's inaugural Christmas season at the Coliseum on Monday night. The occasion also marked the London premiere of the company's new Nutcracker, a production made possible because Diana intervened to secure generous sponsorship from Harrods.

The new staging is, on the whole, fairly conventional. Artistic director Derek Deane has updated the story to the 1990s and given it a grown-up psychological twist, but otherwise leaves the familiar goodies intact. His most radical move is to try to develop the character of Drosselmeyer by ascribing to him a complex set of motives. The enigmatic magician can't seem to make up his mind when it comes to dealing with his goddaughter, Clara. One minute Drosselmeyer is warmly avuncular,



the next he is leering at her like an old lecher and directing overtly sexual body language at her. Deane never resolves the conundrum, and it jars.

The designer. Sue Blane. also enjoys a mixed success. She achieves a chic contrast in Act I's Christmas Eve party skimpy black cocktail dresses and all-white furniture — but disappoints in a transformation scene that fails to satisfy the urge for spectacle. For Act never been more adamant, II Blane lets down her guard, and step for step this is one of dazzling us in the Kingdom of the Sweets with a blinding array of candy and colour and some of the gaudiest pink frocks ever seen in a ballet.

As for the choreography. there is a real streak of determination in Deane's movement language. The party guests have never worked harder, the Snowflakes have and step for step this is one of the busiest of all Nutcrackers. Tamara Rojo was an exceptionally pretty Clara on open-

ing night, and captured the emotional rush of a young girl on the cusp of sexual maturity. Italy's Roberto Bolle, as the Prince, was handsome enough to stir any young girl's blood, while Greg Horsman, despite the limitations of Drossel-

meyer, revealed a true flair for character dancing. Lucia Lacarra, the Spanish guest artist taking the roles of Sugar Plum and the Ice Queen. danced with great elasticity but not enough strength - her. ankles are like butter. Happy times in the pit where Patrick Flynn conducted a robust account of the score.

DEBRA CRAINE

# Live-wire nostalgia

JAZZ Billy Jenkins/LEGO Bracknell

TWENTY years ago, Roger Ruskin Spear would arrive at jazz and alternative music venues with his Kinetic Wardrobe; a van-load of robots progressively set into jerky, repetitive, musical motion until all of them whirred away at once.

The robot named Bogo, who appears with the London Electric Guitar Orchestra, is less versatile than Spear's, his party tricks restricted to blinking lights, but the playing of the automatons is successfully recreated by the

This is a band locked in the avantgarde ideals of that era, except that the strict performance art masks slipped often enough to let in a self-mocking humour and occasional creative whimsy. Their most effective moments were a long Dadaesque recitation, and a tribute to Bonnie George Campbell that involved seven interesting things to do simultaneously with a wine glass and an amplified guitar.

What transformed the evening was the participation of Billy Jenkins, who played the first set and brought his

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thoroughly contemporary brand of musical humour into the orchestra at the close.

 Jenkins has plenty of practice at the short, cameo appearance where an impact needs to be made immediately. He had to work his small audience hard to get through the initial applause barrier, but thereafter his sequence of short solos, each on a different member of the guitar family, was masterly. The famous Jenkins top-knot was

released for a one-man heavy metal excursion; he produced some authentic bottle-neck sounds on a well-preserved Woolworth's special from the 1960s and he borrowed an audience member's spectacles for a single-handed recreation of Hank B. Marvin and the Shadows. Casually mixed with the playing

were asides, and the ability to adapt the music immediately to events in the audience, one latecomer being accompanied to his seat by a spur-of-themoment vamp. Jenkins's abilities as a guitarist are often submerged in where he has more often been the centre of everyone else's musical activity than able to shine on his own. and his semi-acoustic I Ain't Got Nobody reminded the crowd of his solo

Back in his more familiar role as a member of the ensemble he closed with a wickedly accurate parody of Butch Morris's recent Conduction tour. Needless to say, it was far more entertaining than the real thing.

ALYN SHIPTON

# **Thinking** man rocks

POP

Joé Jackson Queen Elizabeth Half

FOR someone who had announced his "retirement" from the pop world several years ago. Joe Jackson swung straight into his old hit It's Different for Girls with gusto. He followed it with Is She Really Going Out With Him? and with considerable enthusiasm for almost an hour gave us a splendid resumé of his career to date.

All of his best-known songs were played in chronological order, mostly solo at the keyboard but occasionally augmented by a violin. There were interesting digressions too, including a musicological deconstruction of Danny Boy that betrayed his Royal Academy training and, on Hometown, a duet with a transistor radio playing Pachelbel's Canon.

But the real interest lay in the second half of the show, in which Jackson unveiled to a British audience his most recent work, Heaven and Hell. It is an ambitious piece of modern composition portraying in musical form the seven deadly sins.

In September I saw the work in New York with the full cast, which included

the soprano Dawn Upshaw, the brilliant violinist and enlant terrible of American classical music, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, the singer Jane Siberry and other performers from both pop and classical worlds. For financial and logistical reasons, the QEH saw just Jackson and two additional singers and musicians, the versatile Valerie Vagoda and Elise Morris. This meant that there was a heavy reliance on digital orchestrations, computer loops and drum machines. Inevitably some of the impact was lost, but the slimmed-down versions stood up surprisingly well, only occasionally lapsing into the realm of a 1970s prog-rock concept album.

The trio format worked best on Angel, depicting lust, in which the two women's voices contrasted dramatically as the different archetypes of Virgin and Whore, Passacaglia/A Bud and a Slice, which deals with anger, is the ione out-and-out rock composition and suffered most from the pared-down format. It is meant to feature three live drummers and the computers were no substitute. More successful was Tuzla, a clever depiction of avarice based on war profiteering in Bosnia, in which Jackson sang into a field telephone.

of such crossovers.

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the plaintiff's cause of action did

not depend upon proof that he had

been guilty of mansiaughter, the claim against the defendant au-

thority was founded on the asser-

tion that the manslaughter was the

kind of act that the doctor respon-

sible for his care ought reasonably

to have foreseen and that breaches

of duty by the defendant authority

Mr Irwin submitted that not all

criminal acts would prevent a

court entertaining a plaintiff's claim. He prayed in aid in that regard a test which the Court of

Appeal had adopted in other cases

between 1986 and 1994, namely

whether the result in any particu

lar case would be acceptable to the

In Tinsley v Milligan (1994) I AC 340) Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord

Browne-Wilkinson regarded such

Lord Golf preferred to accept the reason for the rule stated by Lord

Justice Ralph Gibson in the Court
of Appeal in that case in that, in so

far as the maxim was directed at deterrence, the force of the deter-

the known rule and its stern

Lord Goff had said (at p363):

"But bearing in mind the passage from the judgment of Lord Justice Ralph Gibson which I have just

quoted, I have to say that it is by no

means self evident that the public

conscience test is preferable to the

effect was in the existence of

a test as unsatisfactory.

caused the plaintiff to kill.

# Convict cannot sue over crime prevention

ton Health Authority Refore Lord Justice Reldam, Lord Justice Potter and Mrs Justice

|Judgment December 5 A plaintiff who had been convicted of a serious criminal offence could not on the ground of public policy sue a health authority for neg-ligence in failing to treat him properly and thus to prevent him committing the offence, unless it could be shown that he did not know the nature and quality of his act or that what he had done was

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the defendants, Camden and Islington Health Authority. from the dismissal of their applica-tion by Mr Richard Mawrey, QC. sitting as a deputy High Court judge (The Times December 27, 1996) to strike out the claim brought against them by the plaintiff. Christopher Clunis, as disclosing no cause of action

disclosing no cause of action.
The plaintiff was charged with murder but that was reduced to ughter because of his mental disorder. However, his mental state did not justify a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity. Consequently, although his responsibility for the killing was diminished, he had to be taken to have known what he was doing

and that it was wrong.

A plea of diminished responsibility accepted that the accused's mental responsibility was substantially impaired but did not remove liability for his criminal act. It was not considered that a court could or should go behind the conviction nor had there been anything in the have justified the view that the

In re Galileo Group Ltd

Before Mr Justice Lightman

On an application by a liquidator under section 236 of the Insolvency

Act 1986, the court was not, in

principle, precluded from ordering

the disclosure by persons not

within section 82(1)(a) of the Banking Act 1987 of relevant contents of

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and should bear in mind a number

of factors, including the possibility that such an order might under-

Judgment November 13

the serious crime to which he had

Mr Stephen Irwin and Mr Jonathan Glasson for Mr Clunis: Mr John Grace, QC and Mr Andrew Grubb for the health

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM. giving the judgment of the court. said that the plaintiff, who had a history of mental illness, was discharged from hospital into the care of the defendant health authority on September 24, 1992 After failing to keep four appointments made by the doctor responsible for his care, the plaintiff, in a sudden unprovoked attack, killed a man by stabbing him at Finsbury Park Underground Station on December 17, 1992

In his statement of claim, the plaintiff contended that he had suffered, injury, loss and damage because the health authority were negligent and responsible for breach of a duty at common law to treat him with reasonable care and

It was alleged, among other matters, that the doctor respon-sible for his care failed to arrange a mental health assessment of him before November 30, 1992 and failed to ensure that an urgent mental health assessment was carried out before he committed nanslaughter on December 17. Mr Irwin submitted that the maxim ex turpi causa non oritur actio ino right of action arises from

a hase cause did not apply to actions founded on tort. Of that maxim Lord Justice Lindley in Scott v Brown, Doering. McNab & Co [1892] 2 QB 724, 728; had said: "This old and well known legal maxim is founded in and well recognised legal prin-ciple, which is not confined to

indictable offences. No court ought to enforce an illegal contract or allow itself to be made the instrument of enforcing philipations alleged to arise out of a contract or transaction which is illegal, if the illegality is brought to the notice of the court, and if the person invoking the aid of the court is himself implicated in the illegality. It matters not whether the defen-dant has pleaded the illegality or whether he has not. If the evidence adduced by the plaintiff proves the illegality the court ought not to

In Colburn v Paimore (1834) 1 Cr, M and R 73, 83) Lord Lynd-hurst, Chief Baron, had said: "I know of no case in which a person who has committed an act de-clared by the law to be criminal. has been permitted to recover compensation against a person who has acted jointly with him in

"It is not necessary to give any opinion on this point; but I may say, that I entertain little doubt that a person who is declared by the law to be guilty of a crime cannot be allowed to recover damages against another who has participated in its commission."

The argument was even more pertinent if the claim to damages was against someone who had not participated in the crime. The rule stated by Lord Mansfield, Chief Justice, in Holman v Johnson ([1775] I Cowp 341, 343) was a rule of public policy that: "No court will lend its aid to a man who founds his cause of action upon an immoral or illegal act."

present strict rules. Their Lordships did not consider "Certainly I do not feel able to say that it would be appropriate for your Lordships' House, in the face that the public policy that the court would not lend its aid to a litigant of a long line of unbroken au-thority stretching back over 200 years, now by judicial decision to who relied on his own criminal or immoral act was confined to

replace the principles established in those authorities by a wholly discretionary system. The only case cited to suggest

that the court would entertain a claim to recover damages based on a plaintiff's conviction of a criminal offence knowingly committed was Meah v Creamer (No I) (1985) 1 All ER 367).

There the plaintiff who had suffered a head injury in a road accident was held to be entitled to damages which arose from his subsequent conviction of two of-

Subsequently, in Meah v Creamer (No 2) [[1986] I All ER 983], he was held not to be entitled to claim as damages sums he had been ordered to pay in compensa-tion to the rape victims.

At the first hearing the judge, Mr Justice (now Lord) Woolf, recorded that it had not been argued on behalf of the defendant at the plaintiff was not entitled to be compensated for having committed the crimes and was entitled to receive substantial dam-

entitled to receive substantial dam-ages in respect of that claim.

While any decision of Lord

Woolf had to be given the greatest
weight, their Lordships did not
consider that, in the absence of
argument on the issue of public policy, his decision in Meah v Creamer (No 1) could be regarded as authorizative on that issue.
Their Lordships considered that

the defendants had made out their plea that the plaintif's claim was essentially based on his illegal act of manslaughter. The court ought not to allow itself to be made an instrument to enforce obligations own criminal act and the appeal would be allowed on that ground. Solicitors: Thanki Novy Taube:

# Court can order disclosure with safeguards

There must be taken into ac-

might be seen as undermining the protection afforded by section 82; that the possibility of the exercise being required or undertaken might prejudice the free flow of information to the Bank which it was the purpose of section 82 to

a person with lawful access to the embarroed information 3 The risk that an erroneous

omission to edit out a passage might constitute a criminal 4 The danger that the reducted

document might prove misleading by reason of the excisions: a 5 The problems which might be created by such disclosure for, inter alia, a witness at trial faced required to answer questions on it. yet barred from explaining his sages omitted.

oppressive to the person

# **Exemption from VAT for** credit arrangements

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Civil Service Motoring Association

Before Lord Justice Hobbouse. Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice **Judgment November 25** 

The exemption from value-added tax for the making of arrangements for any transaction for the granting of credit in Group 5 of Schedule 6 to the Value Added Tax Act 1983 was not restricted to activities in relation to particular transactions for the specific grant

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from the dismissal by Mr Justice Sedley on January 24, 1997, of the comm sioners appeal from the decision of the Value Added Tax and Duties Tribunal on March 13, 1996 that ation was entitled to the benefit of an exemption from VAT under Schedule 6 to the 1983 Act, which implemented article 13B of the Sixth Council Directive EEC/77/388 of May 1977 on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to the turnover taxes: common system of

value-added tax; uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 L145 pl). Article I3B of the Sixth Directive provides: "... member states shall exempt ... (d) the following transactions: I The granting and the negotiation of credit and the management of credit by the person granting it."

Group 5 of Schedule 6 to the 1983

Act exempted from VAT the following items: "Item No ... 2. The making of any advance or the granting of any credit ... 5. The making of arrangements for any transaction comprised in items ...

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the commissioners; Mr David Milne, QC and Miss Julie Anderson for

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the issue whether the tribunal had properly applied the exemption arose from the supply of services by the association in connection with an "affinity" credit

card scheme. The association negotiated with Frizell Banking Services (FBS) for the introduction to its members to the benefits of the FBS credit card scheme on favourable terms. In consideration for supplying a ser-vice to FBS, cooperating with FBS to produce a credit product, the association received commission of actions between its members and

Unless exempted under Schedule 6 to the 1983 Act those services were liable to VAT.

The association and FBS worked together in a partnership agree-ment. There was more than simply a grant by the association to FBS of the right to develop, market and issue an affinity card bearing the association logo with the object of encouraging members to take up that card.

The association was not acting simply as an introducer, but was involved in customer handling, marketing, setting prices, discuss-ing interest rates, negotiating the provision of benefits, providing an rbitration service and holding joint discussions on operational and market issues for the protection of its members.

There was no finding by the tribunal that the association acted as an intermediary to bring members and FBS together in particular transactions for the specific grant of credit.

The critical question was whether the expressions "negotia-tion of credit", "making of arrange-ments for any transaction"; "for the granting of any credit" were to be construed as implicitly restricted to activities in relation to particular transactions for the specific grant of credit.

placing that restricted meaning on the wide general language of the Directive or the 1983 Act.

Both expressions referred to the doing of things antecedent to, and directly leading to the general result of the granting of any

In some cases intermediaries between oringinals would be involved in achieving that result. In other cases they would not. It was neither expressly nor impliedly necessary that they should be involved as a condition of the application of the exemption to those who do not actually grant

The activities of the association, in respect of which FBS paid commission, could reasonably and sensibly be described as the negotiation of, or making arrange-ments for any transaction for the grant of credit.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE, agreeing, said that the tribunal's statement of decision ran to 21 pages but did not contain any clear findings of fact on the critical

It was the duty of a fact finding tribunal to set out clearly the relevant facts and make findings upon the disputed questions of

That was necessary for two main reasons: first, the parties were enritled to know why they had won or lost; second, where there was a right of appeal, particularly on a point of law, it was essential to the its determination that the facts should have been found by the tribunal from which the appeal was brought.

In every case the tribunal should distinguish between the recitation of the evidence and the findings of fact and be sure to make clear and adequate findings of fact. Lord Justice Pill agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs

### section 30 of that Act, provided that any material embargoed by secbros' behalf pursuant to section 39 tion 82 had been removed. However, in such circumstances, it should exercise its of the 1987 Act and of transcripts of interviews used in compiling that

Xmas trees not a woodland Jaggers (trading as Shide thereof shall be charged to tax

Trees) v Ellis (Inspector of Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment November II] A plantation of Christmus trees was not a woodland and the profits from it were not excepted from the charge to income tax imposed by

section 53 of the Income and

Cornoration Taxes Act 1988. Mr Justice Lightman so held in a very Division dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer. Mrs Deidre Jaggers, trading as Shide Trees, from the determination of a special commissioner (Mr T. H. K. Everen) upholding assessments to income tax under Case I of Schedule D for years from 1990-91

Section 53 of the 1988 Act provides "(3) ... the occupation of land... for any purpose other than farming or market gardening shall, if the land is managed on a commercial basis and with a view to the realisation of profits, be treated as the carrying on of a trade ... and the profits or gains

flow of information to the Bank of England, as well as the difficulty of reducting the documents satisfactorily. Mr Justice Lightman so held in

the Chancery Division, in dismissing an application by the liq-uidator of Galileo Group Ltd for an order under section 236 of the 1986 Act against Hambros Bank Ltd for disclosure of a report by Norton Rose produced on Hamreport and against the interviewees for transcripts of their inter-

under Case I of Schedule D...

Subsection (4), as substituted by

paragraph 6(7) of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 1988, provides: "Sub-

section (3) above shall not apply in

relation to the occupation of land

taxpayer: Mr Timothy Brennan

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN

said that since 1990 the taxpayer

had grown Christmas trees. Nor-

way Spruce. Noble Fir and Cauca-

sian Fir, on a nine-acre site on the

Isle of Wight. Most were sold at

heights between four and seven

"Woodlands" and "forestry"

were not standarily defined in the

Act. They were not words of art. but words in common usage.

The special commissioner said

that he had come to his decision,

that the site was not an area of

on impression. The site was not used for timber production. The

taxpayer could only challenge the

which comprises woodlands. . . \*

for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that Galileo Group had retained Hambros as its financial adviser in relation to its proposed bid to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society.
The bid was abandoned when it

Mr Matthew Collings for the liquidator. Mr Richard Adkins, whether he was bound in law to

OC and Mr William Trower for advisers. He applied under section 236 for the production of the report Hambros: Mr Mark Phillips for the Bank of England, intervener. and transcripts. The report delved deeply into the internal workings of Hambros and dealt with many matters of con-cern to the Bank but of no

emerged that Galileo and Hambros, among others, had been in receipt of confidential information relating to the affairs of the society. Galileo went into voluntary liquidation. Hambros had not been paid in full for its services, but had not yet sought to prove for the sums owed. The liquidator

she could establish that on any

reasonable use of the English

The Shorter Oxford English

Dictionary defined "woodland" as

land covered with wood, that is, trees; a wooded region or piece of

or cultivated and might be in-

tended for use for the production of

timber or for the provision of an

amenity. The term connoted a

wood, a sizeable area of land to a

significant extent covered by grow-

ing trees of some maturity, height

The plantation did not strike the

probably would not strike anyone acquainted with the English lan-

guage as a wood or woodlands.

The general impression of the site, supported by photographs, was of

reached his conclusion.

sioner as woodlands and

language the plantation fell within

the description "woodlands".

nd Irecouldi

the court should exercise its discretion to make the order. His Lordship set out section 82 of the 1987 Act, made some prelimi-nary observations about its application and considered the levant authorities

The starting point was that section 82 placed an embargo on any information obtained by Norton Rose so far as it was communicated to Hambros and the

egitimate interest to the

The issue before the court was

whether it was precluded from

making an order for disclosure

under section 236 by the provisions

of the 1987 Act, and, if not, whether

Nothing in section 82 prevented Hambros and the interviewees from disclosing to the liquidato what they already knew. What they had to be most careful to avoid, however, was disclosure of any supplement to that knov furnished by Norton Rose.

His Lordship concluded that section 82 precluded disclosure by Hambros of the entire report or transcripts since it was clear that they contained embargoed information. Nor did it allow the interviewees

to disclose their unedited transcripts, since in the course of the interviews information obtained by Norton Rose had been disclosed to the interviewees in circumstances where they might not have known that was happening.

Accordingly, the issue was

a nursery rather than a wood. The commissioner's judgment was plainly correct. Most certainly it was not irrational of him to have whether the report and transcripts could and should be redacted so as to edit out the embargoed materia Section 82 created no bar to that Solicitors: Cohen & Naicker, exercise being undertaken. Whether or not it should be ordered was a question to be Maida Vale: Solicitor of Inland

### decided in exercising the jurisdiction under section 236 of the 1986

His Lordship considered the court's undoubted jurisdiction to order production of redacted documents and said that in cases such as the present concerned with information embargoed by section 82, it was to be exercised with the greatest caution.

count a number of factors, including:

I The making of such an order

2 The difficulty of the exercise, which could only be undertaken by

Section 236 required the court to strike a balance between the liquidames reasonable requirements and the need to avoid making an order which was un-reasonable, unnecessary or

His Lordship was not satisfied that the liquidator reasonably required the exercise to be undertaken and was clear that any need was more than counterbalanced by the considerations weighing against the making of the order sought. Accordingly, his Lordship dismissed the application. Solicitors: Wilde Sapte; Slaughter & May; Freshfields.

# Bond money repayable where no damage is suffered

Cargill International SA and Another v Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation

Before Lord Justice Staughton. Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Potter Judgment November 19] Money paid under a performance bond to a party who had suffered

no damage was recoverable The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an interlocutory appeal brought by the buyer, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, against the decision of Mr Justice Morison ([1996] 4 All ER 563) that although the buyer was entitled to make a call for the full amount of the bond, if the result of the breach by the seller, Cargill International SA, any money received under the bond

was recoverable by the seller. Mr Ajmalul Hossain for the buyer; Mr Stephen Males for the seller.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that the seller agreed to sell sugar to the buyer by a contract dated June 16, 1994. Clause 13 provided under the heading "Performance Bond": "The seller has already submitted a performance bond to the buyer in the form of bank guarantee equivalent to 10 per cent of the total offered C & F (C) [cost. freight and commission) value of ... sugar. The performance bond is liable to be forfeited by the buyer if the seller fails to fulfil any of the terms and conditions of this con-tract and also if any loss/damage occurs to the buyer due to any fault of the seller." The preliminary issues which had to be determined were, on the assumption that the seller was in

I Whether the buyer was entitled to numer a call for the full amount of the performance bond, if the breach or breaches of contract (a) caused no loss to the buyer; (b) caused some loss which was less than the amount of the performance bond; (c) caused some loss which was equal to or greater than the amount of the performance

2 Whether, in the event of the buyer having obtained payment under the bond as a result of any such call as it was entitled to make the buyer was entitled to retain (a) all of the money received by it; (b) only such amount as was equal to the amount of the loss suffered by it; or (c) some other, and if so

Mr Justice Morison found that on a proper construction of clause 13 there was no indication that it was the parties' intention that the bond would either satisfy the whole of the buyer's damages or prevent the seller from recovering

If it had been the intention of the parties to produce a result whereby the buyer could both call on the bond and sue for damages. whereas the seller lorfeited his right to any overpayment, much plainer words would have been

Mr Justice Morison treated the two parts of the clause disjunctively. Thus the buyer was stipulating that as between himself and the seller, all he needed to show to be entitled to call on the bond was a breach of contract. If, on the other hand, damage was caused to the buyer then the right to call the bond was conferred by the second half of the In either event there would be an

accounting at trial or arbitration to ensure that the buyer had not been underpaid or overpaid. Thus he answered the first question "Yes" in all cases and "(b)" to the second. In his Lordship's judgment, the true purpose of clause 13 was to define as between the parties the circumstances in which the buyer was entitled to make a call on the bond, a matter upon which the

As between the parties to the sale contract the word "forfeited", as applied to the bond, was not to be read as an indication that the moneys paid over would be irrevocably lost by the seller in all

Rather, it was to be read as a shorthand for the buyer's right to call upon the bank for payment on its hand as a matter of primary

The exercise of that right did not, in the absence of clear words indicating a contrary intention, preclude the seller's subsequent right to recover from the buyer any sum which represented over-payment in respect of the buyer's damage once such damage was

ascertainable. The use of the word "forfeited", construed in its contractual and commercial context, did not amount to such a contrary

His Lordship considered that Mr Justice Morison was correct and he would dismiss the appeal. Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed and Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Beale & Co; Middle-

## **European Law Report**

# Allowance cannot be exported

# Snares v Adjudication

Case C-30/46 Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias. President and Judges C. Gulmann. H. Ragnemaint, M. Watheler, G. F. Marient, J. C. Moitinho de

Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P.

Puissocher, G. Hursch, P. Jann and L. Sevon Advocate General P. Léger (Opinion May 6)

Hudgment November 4 A recipient of disability living lowance was no longer entitled to the allowance after he took up residence in another member state of the European Community.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities gave judgment on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the a preliminary ruling on the intera prenginary runing on the inter-pretation and validity of provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 of June 14, 1971 on the application of social security chemes to employed persons, in self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, as consolidated in Cauncil Regulation (EEC) No 2001/83 of June 2, 1983 (CU 1983 230 pp) and subsequently

The provisions at issue were rnicles 4(3)) and 10a, inserted by al Paulation (EEC) No of April 30, 1902 (C) 1992 Ll36 pl), which entered into force on June 1, 1902 Disability living allowance.

which was non-contributory and non-means tested, was provided for by the Disability Living Al-lawance and Disability Working Allowance Act [99]. At the material time it was payable in accordance with the Social Security Contributions and

Benefity Aer [1992 and the Social Security (Disability Living Al-

The effect of section 7100 of the 1902 Act and regulation 2 of the 1991 Regulations was that the allowance was only payable to a person who was ordinarily re-ident in Great Britain and present there apart from temporary In April 1903 the applicant suffered an accident which left him

with severely impaired mobility. He applied for and was granted disability living allowance In November 1993 the applicant left the United Kingdom permanently to settle in Tenerife with his family and payment of disability living allowance was thereon terminated.

In appeal proceedings, the central issue was whether article lifa of Regulation 1408/71 was effective to set aside, in the circumstances o the case, the principle of exportability of social security benefits haid down in article 10(1) of the regulation.

Article [0]) provided: "Save as otherwise provided in this Regulation, invalidity ... benefits shall not be subject to any reduction, modification, suspension, withdrawal or confiscation by reason of the fact that the recipient resides in the territory of a member state other than that in which the institution responsible for pay-

ment is located. Article 4(2a) provides: This Regulation shall ... apply to special non-contributory benefits ...

Article 10uff) provides: "Notwithstanding the provisions of article (t) persons to whom this Regulation applies shall be granted the special non-contributory cash benefits referred to in article 4(2a) exclusively in the territory of the member state in which they reside, in accordance with the legislation of that state. avided that such benefits are

provided that such listed in Annex IIa... In its judgment the European

In terms of article 10a of Regulation 1405/71, the persons to whom that regulation applied were en-titled to the special non-contributory cash benefits referred to in article 4(2a), in accordance with the coordination rules which it set out. provided that the benefits were

listed in Anney Ha. Disability living allowance was so listed, in point (f) of section L. The fact that the Communit legislature referred to legislation, such as that relating to disability living allowance in Annex IIa, must be accepted as establishing that benefits granted pursuant to that legislation were special non-contributory benefits falling within

Further, the wording of article 10a implied that the benefits to which it referred also came within In those circumstances, a benefit

such as disability living allowance was exclusively governed by the coordination rules of article 10a. It was common ground that a whose disability occurred after the entry into force of Regulation 1247/92 inserting articles 4(2a) and 10a into Regulation 14(8/71, came exclusively within the scope of the latter provisions and could not rely on the transitional provisions in article 2 of Regulation 1247/92, by which that regulation did not affect the maintenance of rights of individuals who were already receiving or entitled to the benefit before the entry into force of the

The question was asked whether the relevant provisions of Regula-tion 1247/92 were valid, in the light of various articles of the EC Treaty. In relation to special noncontributory benefits such as those at issue, the principle of the exportability of social security benefits in article 10(1) of Regulation 1405/71 only applied so long as denigating provisions had not been adopted by the Community

Luxembourg

Moreover, the grant of benefits closely linked with the social environment could be made sub-ject to a condition of residence in state of the competent institution.

mstanton.

Benefits such as disability living allowance fell within the category of benefits which, as regards the detailed rules for granting them, were closely linked to a particular material and professional particular particular and profession and professio economic and social context. Further, in the absence of harmonisation in social security matters, the member states re mainers, the mention status re-mained competent to define the conditions for granting social sec-urity benefits, even if they made them more strict, provided that the

conditions adopted did not give rise to overt or disguised discrimination between Com-munity workers. For those and other reasons stated by the court, there were no grounds for impugning the valid-ity of Regulation 1247/92 to the

The European Court ruled:

1 On a proper construction of article 10a of Regulation 1408/71 as amended, read in conjunction with Annex IIa. disability living allowance fell within the scope of that provision and was therefore a special non-contributory benefit within the meaning of article 4(2a) of that regulation, with the result that the position of a person such as the applicant, who, after June I. 1992 when Regulation 1247/92 entered into force, satisfied the conditions for the award of that benefit, was governed exclusively by the system of coordination ablished by article 10a. 2 Examination of Regulation 1247/92 in so far as it set aside, in the case of disability living allowance, the principle of waiver of residence clauses laid down in article 10 of Regulation 1408/71,

had not disclosed any factor of such a kind as to affect its validity.

Before Lord Justice Henry, Mr Justice Gage and Judge Tucker **Judgment November 7** Where an accused person was charged with having an offensive weapon in a public place, a claim that he did not know that the article in question was an offensive weapon could not amount to the defence of reasonable excuse within the meaning of section I(I) of the Prevention of Crime Act

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Felix Densu against his conviction on a plea of guilty to having an sive weapon contrary to section 1(1) of the 1953 Act. after an adverse ruling by Judge Pratt on January 31, 1997, at Croydon Crown Court. He was conditionally discharged for two years and ordered to pay £75 costs. Section 1 of the 1953 Act provides:

(I) Any person who without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on birn, has with him in any public place any offensive weapon shall be guilty of an offence..."

Mr Andrew Evans, assigned by

the Registrar of Criminal Appea

for the appellant; Miss Sally Thompson for the Crown. MR JUSTICE GAGE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant had been involved in a road traffic accident to which the police were called.

They found on the floor beside the driver's seat of the appellant's car a metal telescopic extr baton. It was common ground that that baton, known as an asp, was

# Molluscs harvested outside area

Regina v Stone The prohibition on placing live bivaive molluses on the market for human consumption if harvested outside designated production ar-eas applied regardless of whether such consumption was immediate. The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Henry Mr Justice Gage and Judge Tucker, QC) so held on November 5 when dismissing the appeal of Michael James Roy Stone against his conviction on April 8, 1997 at Southampton Crown Court (Mr Recorder Donne, QC and a jury) of placing on the market for human consumption live bivalve molluscs not produced or harvested from a designated bivalve production area, contrary to regulations 6 and 18 of the Food Safety (Live Bivalve

Molluses and Other Shelifish

Regulations (SI 1992 No 3164). LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the defendant had argued that regulation 6 of the 1992 Regula-tions prohibited putting molluses on the market for immediate human consumption only, and that the word "immediate" had

been omitted by mistake. But the omission of the word the word had been inserted, then molluses from the dirtier nondesignated areas would be less closely controlled than those from certain designated areas, which were required to be purified before sale, by Schedule 5 to the 1992

The fact that the defendant's molluses were going to be kept in clean water for six months before

Ignorance of nature of weapon no excuse an offensive weapon per se. The appellant's explanation was that he had found the baton in a car that it was an aerial. He had used it as a lever for his trolley jack but had not seen it in its extended form and did not know that it was a

weapon. On those facts the judge had ruled that he had no defence. Their Lordships were unable to accept counsel's submissions that lack of knowledge was a matter capable of founding a reasonable excuse defence. The defence of reasonable excuse only arose once it was accepted and proved that a defendant was in possession of an

offensive weapon. The question then for the jury was whether the defendant had a reasonable excuse for having with an offensive weapon, that he did not know it was an offensive

The Act was aimed at eradicating the carrying of dangerous weapons in public. The whole purpose of the Act was to provide strict liability in respect of objects regarded as dangerous. To allow lack of knowledge to be raised as a reasonable excuse defence defeated the purpose of imposing strict liability in respect of the possession of such a weapon, where the object was an offensive

weapon per se. It was not permis-sible to combine lack of knowledge with an explanation for use of the weapon so as to provide a reason-

### him that offensive weapon. As a matter of principle it could not be Solicitors, Crown Prosecution Plot plea basis must be plain

Regina v Anderson Regina v Taberer

late or leaving early.

It was particularly important in conspiracy cases to make plain the basis of a plea, for example whether it was a plea of guilty to the overall conspiracy but with limited actual participation in any crimes committed pursuant to it or limited involvement in the conspiracy itself, for example by joining

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Buckley and Mrs Justice Hale) so stated on rember 7 in a reserved judgment allowing the appeals of Lee Anderson and Lee Kenneth Taberer and reducing to 13 and 12 years respectively the sentence of Is years imprisonment imposed by ensure the Judge Owen on November 5, 1996 necessary at Manchester Crown Court, amended.

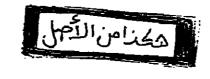
following their pleas on re-arraignment of guilty to conspiracy to rob.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the basis of the appellants' pleas was agreed with the prosecution, the intention being to treat the appellants as if the pleas had been to separate substantive counts or. at the most, to a conspiracy covering only the robberies which they participated in, there being other co-defendants.

it seemed that that was not made

clear to the judge and was not the basis upon which he sentenced. Their Lordships emphasised the importance, particularly in difficult conspiracy cases, of drafting the basis of pleas with great care.

Counsel and the court should ensure that all were ad idem. If necessary the indictment should be



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A DOCUMENT spilling

Susan MacDonald on the increasing need for multilingual secretaries, especially from foreign banks and European law firms

# Demand grows for language skills

on to a new page by a few lines can be annoying: there is a shrink to fit facility in Microsoft Word's Print Preview mode - the button is on the bottom row of the This can make every-

thing look too cramped and you might want to undo it. If you haven't saved the document, hold down the Control key and press Z. This doesn't work if you have already saved the document but there is an emergency measure you can take: hold down the Control key and press A. This will select all the text. Then choose Format/Font and change the font size.

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ith much fanlare, the British Government is preparing to take over the presidency of the European Union on January I — and there has been a last-minute scramble to brush up on languages. About 150 ministers and civil servants have signed up for crash courses in French, but civil servants organising Britain's six-month term office believe that unless their French really is up to standard it would be better to speak in English for business purposes. Even Tony Blair has been told: "Your French is

good, but not that good." She returned to Eng-This is something that multilingual secretaries know already. Companies employing multilingual secretaries require linguistic excelsecretaries require linguistic excel-lence — and often a good commer-cial knowledge of the foreign language they speak. In addition to this language knowledge, these super secretaries should have excellent IT skills and a knowledge of the company's area of work.

And despite all this, multilingual secretaries sometimes earn much the same salaries as non-linguistic secretaries. Hazel Cook and Sarah Spyles, two multilingual secretaries with large organisations in London, agree that their salaries do not reflect their prowess in languages. On the other hand, Babette Grolman, who also works in London, says that hers has always reflected the fact that she speaks

Ms Cook, 29, speaks French and German. On leaving university with a modern languages degree, she took a secretarial took a secretarial course. She spent nine months working as a secretary in Munich and then went as a secretary to Brussels for four years. She learnt Italian at evening classes while

land six months ago and now works as a PA for Société Générale in the City. "It is in London that the need for multilingual secretaries is greatest, especially among foreign banks and European law firms," she says. My main aim has been to use my language knowledge as

sive secretarial course and has done a two-year marketing course. She felt she needed these qualifications because when she left university people said: "All right, you've got languages, but what skills have you got for the job world?"

Neither of them knows foreign shorthand and Ms Grolman, 32, who has worked for two years as a



Babette Grolman's command of German, English and Italian is reflected in her bank salary

PA and office manager in the London office of Deutsche Hypo bank, does not have shorthand in any language. However, she feels that her command of German, English and Italian is reflected in her salary because she uses them all the time.

Her masters degree in translating specialised in law and she has

worked for an American law firm and as a translator. "My languages abilities have always been reflected

Robert House of Language Matters recruitment agency thinks the language market is buoyant and growing. There has been a 20-40 per cent increase in the past two or three years," he says. French and

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in my salaries," she says.

much as possible and I secretarial course was a way of doing this. I feel there is a lot of scope for development in the bank."

Ms Spyles, 32, who works for a large catering company, speaks Spanish and German. I have found that pay is based on the level of the person you are working for and not on your own skills," she says. "Many employers do not appreciate what they have. It is not just a question of being excellent at languages, but of understanding other cultures so that you can speak to people as though you came from their

After her degree in modern languages, she took a ten-week inten-German are the most sought-after

languages, followed by Italian and Spanish. The need for Russian. Japanese, Mandarin and Cantonese speakers is now on the increase whereas the need for Arabic has fallen off.

Ian Archibald of Multilingual Services recruitment agency says that during the boom of the 1980s

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there was an increasing need for multilingual secretaries as foreign finance houses set up shop, but the recession hit these secretaries hard as finance houses folded their tents and crept away.

Demand has increased over the past year but companies, he says, are far more demanding in the skills they want in addition to languages

than they were in the 1980s. Apart from supplying secretaries to companies in Britain (especially London), specialist agencies seek secretaries to work in continental Europe. "We mainly supply secre-taries for Paris and Frankfurt because they have important finance centres," Mr House says. The markets in Madrid and Milan are not buoyant enough to produce many opportunities.

To work with languages, people either need to have grown up in a bilingual home or to have been trained to commercial standards. Both agencies agree that more than 90 per cent of those on their books are graduates who learnt their languages at university. This is because the old two-year, post A-level secretarial courses that included in-depth commercial language training have disappeared.

Mr Archibald says: "Some progressive companies provide language training for their secretaries. but, it seems, the number doing so has not increased along with the expansion of the market.

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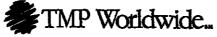
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wond/street + strong organisa-tion shifts for BC3 Inc. Co. Call 0171 353 3100. RECEPTION MANDENATE SANTA PA/HS schmin maker in Menay Wile on HE superince & honic Persch pri-ferend, Good wy skills ensential (50vpm). £20,000. Pis call Late Downson on 0177 390 7000 Cours Cockelli Multilio-gual Rec Cons.

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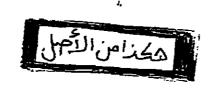
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# The fun of the cup and £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a

team and win the FA Cup league?

£10,000 prize is up addition to their current allo-for orabs for the cation. Thereafter, all teams for grabs for the winner of the brandnew FA Cup league. a league within the ITF. Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the

FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division

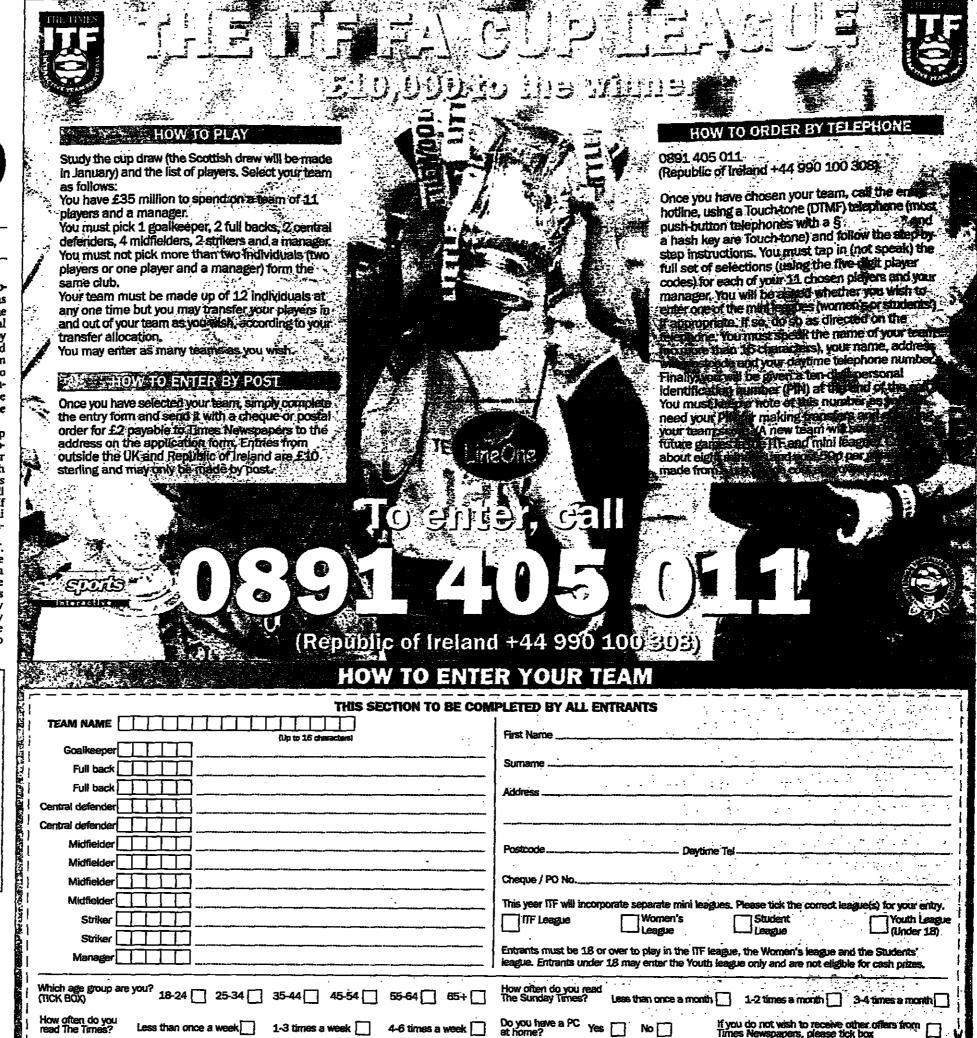
This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember. the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated. Any team in the ITF prior to 12 noon on December 13 will automatically re-

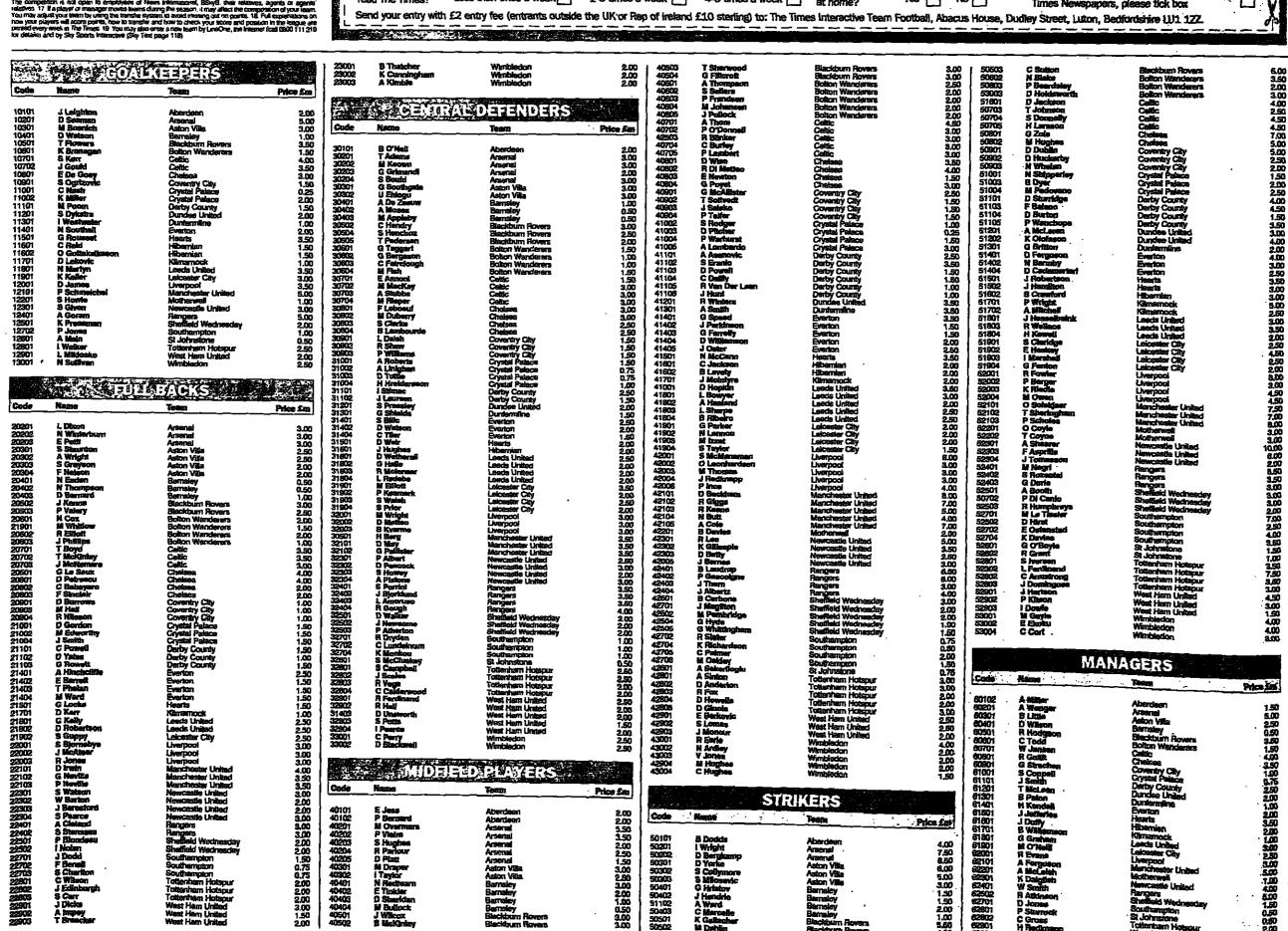
will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and relephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. Entrants must be

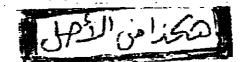
By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if approprate, in the mini leagues — students' or wom-

By scoring points in the ITF. your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also









# Maktoums issue threat to leave

RACING CORRESPONDENT

A WARNING came from Sheikh Mohammed last night that the Maktoum family will pull out of British racing soon unless there are dramatic changes in the way the sport is financed.

The threat - and he insisted it was not an idle one - was contained in a speech written by the Dubai leader and delivered to the Girncrack dinner at York.

His words, which he said came from both the heart and the head, means racing in Britain must now confront the ultimate nightmare. The withdrawal of the Maktoums, who have invested hundreds of millions of pounds during the past two decades, would leave the sport in a perilous state. In his speech, read out by Michael Osborne, one of his trusted advisers. Sheikh Mo-

### RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Charming Admiral (12.20 Hexham)

Charming Admiral made an encouraging hurdles debut be-hind French Holly in a decent race at Ayr recently. A reproduction of that effort should be rewarded with vic-tory in the opener at Hexham.

Next Best: Native Charm

(3.00 Leicester)

hammed said everyone at the Gimerack dinner knew that racing was being bled dry by chronic underfunding. But he stressed he was not holding out a begging bowl. "All that my brothers and I seek to do is to highlight the economic unrealities of racing — the folly of the figures — and to concen-

trate people's minds as to the inevitable consequences." Observing diplomatic niceties, he said that as Minister of Defence in Dubai he would not have the discourtesy to advise the British Government on a matter of domestic policy. "But I would be failing in my duty as a racing man were I not to point out that the Government extracts from racing more money than is justifiable or sustainable in-

the long term. "In crude terms, from the 9p deduction on bets in this country, the Government better off racing in Poland,



Sheikh Mohammed, flanked by two of his brothers, Maktoum, left, and Hamdam, has threatened to pull out of British racing

takes six times the amount that is returned to racing. They have 6.75 pence, the levy receives 1.2 pence and the rest disappears in the general direction of the bookmakers' ever-open pockets. Government must be convinced of the argument that by taking less now they will eventually get more from a revitalised and

healthier industry."
British racing had so much of which it should be proud. but also some things "which should make us hang our heads in shame". Referring to the percentage of keep and training fees recoverable through prize-money in 40 countries worldwide, he said: "Britain ranks 35th, a desperare plight for a nation with the finest racing in the world. Can someone please explain to me

how it is that owners would be

Mauritius or Greece rather tounding gulf between outlay than the birthplace and home

of throughbred racing?" The Sheikh said that he and his three brothers were proud to be powerful players in British racing and they had hoped to see their children race in this country. "But I fear the economic realities will dictate that the children will not follow their fathers."

He continued: "For ten vears I have kept my own counsel and withstood all temptations to enter the debate surrounding racing's financial plight, but the time for silence has passed. "We cannot justify contin-

uing at present levels of investment for much longer and are actively studying whether other parts of the world might not provide better opportunities for us. "All I ask is that the asand return is narrowed — not for my benefit but for every-body's benefit."

The Sheikh added: "I am not holding a gun to anyone's head, but nor am I making an empty threat. Unless we see positive signs of progress and the possibility of change, we will massively reduce our racing and breeding presence in Britain and resign ourselves to racing in countries which bring us less pleasure but

make more economic sense. We can no longer escape the stark fact that our racing operation in Britain is a luxury that we can no longer sustain - and just as that applies to us, so logically, it must also apply to the major international players and all too many home based owner-breeders

While he loved racing,

Sheikh Mohammed said he was beginning to despair as to its future. He urged racing to unite behind the British Horseracing Board (BHB)

and he promised his family would offer any support it could. But please be in no doubt that if we see no light at the end of the tunnel then we will be left with little choice but to make an exit. It isn't that we want to leave, but we fear we may have to go."

Giving a clue as to the timing of a possible withdrawal, Sheikh Mohammed said it would be good to think his family might have another winner of the Gimerack in five years' time so he could deliver happier tidings in a speech.
"But to have a winner of the Gimcrack in the year 2002 we would need to have a runner - as of tonight that can no longer be taken for granted."

SIS

# **Arabian** story of abiding

passion By Chris McGrath

IN HIS homeland, he has turned desert scrub into a dazzling citadel. If such arid ground can yield to verdure, little wonder Sheikh Mo-hammed is baffled that the British Turf - so bewitch-

ingly green and pleasant -should be allowed to wither. Sheikh Mohammed's maroon and white colours are carried by a string of 350 racehorses worldwide. In the past 20 years, they have won him 433 European group races, including 130 group ones. Some 250 staff are employed on his British studs, principally at Dal-ham Hall in Newmarket, where his champions — like Mark Of Esteem, Halling and Singspiel - now sus-tain the sport's most fabu-

lous empire as stallions. After first dipping their toes into the waters of the British sport in 1976, the Maktoums caused a sensational splash at the turn of the decade, routing Robert Sangster at the sales. By 1983, things had reached the stage where Sheikh Mohammed could part with \$10.2 million for a yearling. who became — as the useless Snaafi Dancer — a byword for the market's

insane loss of gravity. Sheikh Mohammed won seven of Europe's 15 principal classics in 1989, and was leading owner nine times between 1985 and 1994 (Sheikh Hamdan briefly interrupting in 1990). But he had also expanded the operation to the point of chaos. At one stage, he had 750 horses with 70 trainers.

Rationalisation followed in the early nineties. At the same time, the Sheikh's visions for Dubai enabled him to narrow the focus of his consuming passion. The success of Godolphin wintering horses in the desert - gave the Sheikh immense pride, and lent his bloodstock empire new coherence. As one insider said yesterday: "If everything else goes, that will be the last thing left standing."

### LEICESTER

1.00 Eriking 1.30 Diwali Dancer 2.00 Once More For Luck

2.30 Andre Laval 3.00 POTTER AGAIN (nep) 3.30 Wassi Street

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.30 WASSL STREET.

672. 2m) (8 nunners)	
R/314-1 EFHAR/STO 11 (B.D.G.S) (Eds. 7 Winder) J Culturen 8-11-10 X Azzpariu	
"AFZUR" FLEET CAUCE IN [27] F.G.S.) (Ser John Saraune) M. Pine 6-11-7 G. Semole	(5) 109
14353-1 RIVERBANK ROSE 12 IG Si Glichnaumen Phr. 11 W Chr. E-11-7 G Torri	
ODOP-1U ERLIGING 19 (D.G.S.) (Rudgeway Familier.; S Melics 7-11-6 C Webb	
3F-5124 APACHE PARK 20 (CD.E.S) (M Eley) A Streeter 4-11-3	E 113
FO40-41 RANGER SLOAME 7 (D.G.S.) (G Fierro ) G Fierro 5-10-13 (7ex) A Thorn	(5) 110 Bey (511) Bon (94
3/1-2FD COME ON PENNY 6 (BF.D.F) (A Frost D Gardetto 6-10-12	Nev 183
15-0014 SECRET GET 11 (B.D.F.) (Regal Racing) Mrs. J. Priman 4-10-6 . Mr S. Detrack	155 109
Mary 14 Care and the control of the	-

BETTING: 3-1 Efficing, 5-1 Fleet Cadet, 6-1 Elbansko, Ranger Stoane, Secrol Guit, 7-1 Amedianii Rose, Apach Part, 10-1 Come On Penny

DIWALL DANCER showed promise on his chasing debut last term and should oblige

	3/562-2	ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 12 (D.F.G.) (M Reveley RC) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-5 G Lee	<b>T</b>		
2	1F0-	TOUL STON LADY 86F (D.F.) (Highling and Squares Ltd) J Wharton 5-11-0 R Thousann	58		
3		ADMIRAL'S GUEST 12 (J. Jardey) W Clay 5-10-12 Sophia Mitchell	78		
1	4-0	CHIPALATA 13 (Mrs D Andrews) T Donnelly 4-10-12 G Hogan	-		
•		GUY'S BAMBLE 117F (Parless of Poistacough Pic) J Williams 4-10-12 L Cumples	_		
5	F3PPP-3	MENOR KEY 107 (S) (Roysion Racers) J Jenigris 7-10-12 D Yellowises (5)			
,	0P3P-0	PETROS GEM 13 (Mrs P. Masmell) M. Bolton 4-10-7 J. Harris	54		
TTPNG: 4-5 Once More For Luck, 3-1 Toolskin Lady, 7-1 Minor Key, 12-1 Admikal's Guest, 14-1 Gay's Gamble,					
Charatra 33.1 Dates Com					

1996: FLEET CADET 5-10-12 G Supple (4-1) M Pipe 8 ran

# THUNDERER

12.20 J J Baboo. 12.50 Dockmaster. 1.20 Birkdale. 1.50 I'm The Man. 2.20 Palacegate King. 2.50 Derarinie. 3.20 The Butterwick Kid.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

### 12.20 BUCHANAN ALES NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,106: 2m) (16 runners)

9-4 Chamong Admissi: 3-1 J J Bahoo, 7-2 Bourbon Dynasty, 8-1 Energy Man. 12-1 Santa Barbara, 14-1 Mones. 20-1 Black for Boy. Kemisdala, 25-1 others.

# 12.50 FEDERATION BREWERY SPECIAL ALE AMATEUR HANDICAP HURDLE (22,304: 3m) (14)

AMATEUR HANDICAP HURDLE (\$2,304; 3m) (14)
207 23-0 DURE OF PERTN 13 (C,G) J Howard Johnson 6-11-10
202 21-3 DOCKMASTER 21 (D,G,S) Mass M Militigan 6-11-8
203 11P- CHERRY DEE 237 (D,S) P Bearmont 6-11-7
204 -11P TDBY 19 (F,G) G Richards 4-11-6 \_\_\_\_\_ M Bradburte (7) 105
51-33 STYLSH MITERIVAL 20 (F) D Smith 5-11-4 \_\_\_ C Wisson (7) 112
205 1-33 STYLSH MITERIVAL 20 (F) D Smith 5-11-4 \_\_\_ C Wisson (7) 112
207 1-04 SHONARA'S WAY 13 (G) P Monarch 6-11-4 \_\_\_ R Hair (5) 97
207 -0-0 PEEP O DAY 13 (C,G,S) A J Lockmood 6-10-13 \_\_\_ Miles A Deside (7) 49
208 -0-0 PEEP O DAY 13 (D,G,S) B Thronson 10-10-3 \_\_\_\_ A Brown (7) 100
209 -0-10 POMY 9 (F,G) J Upson 5-10-5 \_\_\_\_ A Brown (7) 100
210 004 RURER 198 (D,G,S) R Thronson 10-10-3 \_\_\_\_ S EBoon (7) 210
210 10-4 DOWSH 2N 1 Lump 6-10-0 \_\_\_\_\_ B Sibson (7) \_\_\_\_\_ C Storey (5) \_\_\_\_\_ C STOREY (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_ C STOREY (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_ C STOREY (7) 76
213 -POD PEPROD 5 7 P Stanned 5-10-0 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Best A Armstage (7) 76
214 P-64 SKEPER 18 F Muraph 5-10-1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Mass A Armstage (7) 76
214 P-64 SKEPER 18 F Muraph 5-10-1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Mass A Armstage (7) 76
214 P-64 SKEPER 18 F Muraph 5-10-1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Mass A Armstage (7) 76
214 P-64 SKEPER 18 F Muraph 5-10-1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Mass A Deside (7) 78
11-4 Documents 5-1 Toby 6-1 Stytish biternal 5-1 Dule Of Perth, Cherry Dec.

# 1.20 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER

MOVICES HURDLE (£2.511. 3m) (15)

201 2.36 ABRIGER 15 Mex M Sentand 5-10-12 P Midgley (3)

202 P.PP ALICAT 16 (8) J. Carts. 6-10-72 J. Callaghan

203 F.66 ALLERRY 33. Founting 9-10-12 9 Graston (5)

204 2-22 BRADALE 71 LIES P. Ward 5-10-12 R. Sample

205 530 PASSAYER 251 N Masson 7-10-12 R. Sample

205 530 PASSAYER 251 N Masson 7-10-12 A. S. Samble

202 P.D-LI RYML SPRILES 35 EM Minor 6-10-12 N. Bentley

209 J.FF. SAFETY FACTOR 274 (D.F.G) D Aldre 9-10-12

210 06 SURSTRIKE 307 R McDonard 5-10-12 J. Magge (3)

211 003 TYNORING GOLD 29 A J Lockmood 7-10-12 B Storey

212 1-14 DAYLANDE Mass. S. WEJERSER 4-16-7 J. Reed

213 1-14 DAYLANDE Mass. S. WEJERSER 4-16-7 P. Neven

214 00-0 CEAK A BOO 356 D William 6-10-7 E. Callaghan

215 547 SAVER PERMY SSE Miss. A Sanchark 7-10-7 J. Supplie

215 SEACAR 7-2 Limited 4-1 Storen. 6-10-7 J. Supplie HOVICES HURDLE (£2.511. 3m) (15) 15-3 Boudair 7-7 Lemond 4-1 Straue, 6-1 Oppess Assess, 14-1 Massyer, 16-1 West, 17-1 About Types Gold 25-1 Open.

# 1.50 KEOGHANS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(2.5, 3.07 : 301 11) (1.3)
401 P-1P CHIPPED DUT 24 (BF.G.5) M Todhamber 7-11-13 P Carborry
402 F-24 AMOTHER VERTURE 24 (S) F Murphy 7-11-11 E Cataghan
403 3-11 COMMUTTED SCHEDULE 16 (CD.F) G Bichards 6-11-6 P More
404 - 31F PEBBLE BACAG 39 (CD.F) 6 M More 7-11-2 J Cataghan
405 -P-24 RYF CRISSING 22 (B.F) T Easteby 7-10-13 L Viyor
406 D-2 MAMACC 28 M Doots 7-10-3 L Viyor
406 D-2 MAMACC 38 M Doots 7-10-3 G F Ryen (S)
407 D-3F DAIDY DES PLAUTS 7 Max S Smalls 1-10-1 G F Ryen (S)
408 3-4 F THE THE MAMA 7 Max E Shazil 6-10-1 G F Ryen (S)
408 3-4 ST THE THE MAMA 7 Max E Shazil 6-10-0 Mr J Dates (7)
410 -364 MEMAL 10 1 P Cheenbrough 7-10-0 R Mothem (7)
410 -364 MEMAL 10 M D Cheenbrough 7-10-0 R Mothem (8)
411 -322 MESSC BUTZ 52 Max D Tomorson 6-10-0 R Mothem (8)
412 OPP CRASHBALLOO 256 P Cheenbrough 8-10-0 T Rept
41 DOPP ARBELAYBUS 7 (V) Max L Soldal 8-10-0 T Rept
40 B-4 Connotited Schedule, 9-2 No Cression, 5-1 Pebble Reach, 7-1 Claronel Out. 9-4 Committed Schedule, 9-2 Rye Crossing, 5-1 Pebble Beach, 7-1 Chipped Out, 10-7 Marping, 12-1 I'm The Main, 14-1 Applier Venture, Marging, 20-1 others.

### 2.20 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,821: 2m) (8)

3-1 Racinel's Owen, 4-1 Talestein, 5-1 Sernation, Parish, 6-1 Pelecegate King, 6-1 Toshiba Taffi, 10-7 Diamond Beach, 20-1 Redampour

# 2.50 EQUINAGE HORSE FORAGE HOVICES CHASE (£3,234; 2m 110yd) (16)

(£3,234: 2m 110yd) (16)
60) 25/13 HOLDERS HEL 18 (ED.F.S) M Meapher 5-11-5. Fixely (5)
602 36-1 LA GRYERA 25 (D.F.) J Charlton 5-11-5. B Surrey
603 -421 SHIRING EDGE 18 (D.F.G) T Existery 5-11-5. L Wyer
603 -421 SHIRING EDGE 18 (D.F.G) T Existery 5-11-5. L Wyer
604 02-9 ADVANCE EST 25 (D.G) M Dook 5-10-12. T Read
605 341- CUTHILL HOPE 275 (S) Min S Smith 6-10-12. R Garety
606 10-5 DERANEE 13 (D.S.) G Retards 5-10-12. R Garety
607 (A.P. FIRESS 27) Housed Johnson 6-10-12. K Johnson
607 (A.P. FIRESS 27) Housed Johnson 6-10-12. K Johnson
608 7(A.P. FIRESS 25) HOUSE AND STORM 10-12 S F Ryen (5)
609 2544 KIRING OF THE BURKEEN 13 MW Existery 6-10-12 P Green
611 (23) MINISTER GLOWN 11 (D.F. MW Existery 6-10-12 P Cartery
612 25W RED MARAUDER 1157 (D.G.S) N Meson 7-10-12. L UTHERS
613 -584 ROCKETTS CASTLE 4 Mins S Brenall (m) 7-10-12. L UTHERS
614 22-2 WELSH MARCH 25 (S) E M Moore 5-10-12. J Calling (7)
614 22-2 WELSH MARCH 25 (S) E M Moore 5-10-12. J Calling (7)
616 PP-4 PATEY COURT 77 (D.G.) J Housed Johnson B-10-7 A S Smith
617 SMISSER GLOWN 5-1 Strining Edge, La Rivaez, 8-1 Holders HM, 9-1 others.

# 3.20 BUCHANAN ALES NOVICES HURDLE

5-2 The Butlemeth Ked, 7-2 Fassan, 9-2 Gospel Song, 8-1 Alpine Panther, Alpine Hidamay, Varradium One, 12-1 Aven'l We Lucky, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: I Easterby, 3 winners from 7 numbers, 42.9%, 6 Bichants, 22 from 73, 30.1%; 3 Goldle, 3 hrow 11; 27.3%; Linego, 22 from 86, 25.5%; Mrs S Bramall, 4 from 17, 23.5%.

JOCKEYS: N Benfley, 13 numbers from 48 rides, 26.5%; P Carberry, 9 from 35, 25.7%; E Calleghan, 5 from 23, 21.7%, P Niver, 20 from 35, 21.1%, 8 Graffan, 3 from 16, 18.5%, I Bend, 18 from 104, 17.5%.

# LINGELED PARK

THUNDERER 12.10 White Plains. 12.40 Selty Behaviour. 1.10 Primary Colours. 1.40 Il Destino. 2.10 Broughtons Formula. 2.40 Naked Oct. 3.10 Into Debt. 3.40

GOING: STANDARD

## DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

(£1,999: 1m 2f) (14 runners) 

12.10 MARIA AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP

### 7-2 White Plains, 9-2 Sweet Supposin, 7-1 Enlisted, Kafil, 8-1 Sea Danzey, Don't Drop Bombs, 10-1 Smart Boy, 72-1 others 12.40 TOINHA CLAIMING STAKES (£2,294: 1m) (12)

(\$2,294: 1m) (\*12)

1 0042 STOPPES BROW 6 (B.C.F.S) & L. Moore 5-9-7 ... A Clark 11
2 1250. SALTY BEHAMOUR 8 (F.S) P. Ecoles 8-8-13 ... T. Williams 5-7
3 0000 SAN-HARDY 120 (F.S) P. Ecoles 8-8-13 ... T. Williams 6-8-13 ... Martin Dayler 9
5 0346 ROBELION 15 (CD.F.S) D. Artestinat 5-8-10 ... Martin Dayler 9
5 0346 ROBELION 15 (CD.F.S) D. Artestinat 5-8-10 ... S. Wildenotth 3
6 5604 DARK MEMACE 19 (B.F) E. Williams 5-8-7 ... S. Carson (\*7) 1
7 ROMOSEES DREAM B. Rajing 3-8-3 ... M. Henry (S) 2
8 0000 KILMERNA LADY 6.J Fox 3-8-1 ... D. D'Shea 8
9 6100 R.O.OD'S HOT STUFF 93 (B.D.F) N. Litamoden 3-743
10 0000 CHIEFS LADY 12.J S. Moore 5-7-12 ... D. Diggs 4
12 00-5 CRULL BOOM 79 (B) 8 Singson 3-7-11 ... N. Cartisle 12
4-7 Sloppes Brow, 7-1 Saity Behaviour, 8-1 Robellion, Tailwand, 10-1 others.

### 1.10 COMMERCIAL CEILING FACTORS NURSERY HANDICAP (Div I: 2-Y-0: £2,768: 1m) (8)

1 931 PRIMARY COLOURS 26 (D) J Patron 9-7 \_\_\_\_ M Wighten 6
2 2000 BOULEVARID ROUGE 19 M Johnston 9-4 \_\_\_ Diem McKeown 4
3 3005 RESPOND 46 C I Moore 9-2 \_\_\_\_ A Clark 7
4 004 BROWNENS 48 Lord Hudsington 8-17 \_\_\_\_ R Pertars 5
5 0000 PRIOYS MOOR 46 R Armstrong 8-9 \_\_\_\_ F Nonton 3
6 030 MEPLICITLY 25 W Lawle 8-7 \_\_\_\_ M Tebbuts 8
7 0600 DAWN TREADER 44 R Hamon 9-2 \_\_\_\_\_ 0 30ges 1
8 0040 ABSTONE PET GRE. 19 P Events 7-10 \_\_\_ A McCarby (7) 2 5-2 Prismay Colours, 9-2 Respond, 11-2 Dawn Treater, 6-1 Boulevard Rouge, 7-1 Priors Moor, 8-1 Browning, 10-1 Implicitly, Abstone Pel Sirt.

### 1.40 COMMERCIAL CEILING **FACTORS NURSERY HANDICAP** (Div R: 2-Y-0: £2,768: 1m) (8)

## 2.10 CHRISTINA HANDICAP

1 5201 MORSO DAWN 30 (B.CO.S) M Johnson 3-9-11 D McKeown 10 2 C310 ROYAL ROULETTE 12 (C) Mics B Sanders 3-9-9 A Clark 8 3 4843 BRECON 73 W Mark 47-7 Maren Dwyer 4 10384 MELLEUR 50 Lady (Hores 3-9-1 T Sprake 5 5 0003 BROUGHTONS FORMULA 15 (B.CO.F) W Musson 7-9-0 D (C) Sprake 1 6 1504 AZTEC R.YER 15 (B.BF.D.F.S) C Broate 4-8-13 M Remont 6 7 0021 SEARD AND SEALED 6 (B.CD) C Cycs 3-8-7 (Se) I Wilkers 2 8 0006 STRAT'S LEGACY 15 (C.F.) D Attaiting 10-8-0 J Dann 11 9 0000 I SEE YOU SYDNEY 8 (W) M Polybes 3-7-13 M Adams 7 10 0000 ME6A T(D 4.) (C.) Foutton 5-7-12 F Norton 9 1 0000 LIZIUM 6 J Fix 5-7-10 F Norton 9 P Doc (?) 3 3-1 Braco. 4-1 Signed Al Sazied, 9-2 Indigo Dissm. 11-2 Age; Fiye, 6-1 Meilleux, 13-2 Broughtons Formula, 14-1 Royal Routetts, 16-1 others n O'Shea 1

# 2.40 SELMA MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,294: 71) (10)

1		BANK ON HIM 15 6 L Moone 9-8 M Wigham 3
2		DIAMOND ORBIL 50 P Major 9-0
3	5	MAC'S BACK 147 W O'Gorman 9-0 . Emma O'Gorman 9
4		NAKED OAT 16 B Smart 9-0 J Stack 2
5	0000	RED PEPPER 12 P How/map 9-0 S Waltworth 4
5		YOUNICO M Johnston 9-0 Dean McKeown 6
7	D	CITADEL 44 J & Smyth-Osbourns 8-9 T Sprake 10
В	9	FIFTH EMERALD 33 C West 8-9 M Tebburg 1
9		SCOTLAND BAY 44 R Hannon 8-9 R Perhana 8
0		SILVER JOY 147 (E) K McAultike 8-9 M Fenton 5
	led Oal	, 9-2 Bank On Him. Younigo, 13-2 Demond Dnil, 8-1 Red Pepper, grald, Silver Joy, 14-1 others

## 3.10 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY

# Amanda Sanders 9 11 0043 CLONOE 8 (8) R Ingram 3-8-0 TWilliams 12 12 0200 ABSTONE OLUEEN 11 (8.D.F.G) P Evans 3-7-10 A McCarthy (7) 7 13 0000 COASTGUARDS HERO 20J M Usher 4-7-10 J Marshall 2 14 0600 91TO DEBT 6 (ECD1 Poulton 4-7-10 F Normon 5 7-2 Sally Judy 9-2 Faylt 5-1 Resist The Force, 8-1 Chipstead Bay 10-1 La Petite Fusce, Million, 12-1 Gablussa, 14-1 others

3.40 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Div II: £2,518: 71) (14)

# 

TRANKERS: 6 Clatoyd, 3 winners from 9 ruosers, 33.3%; V Scane 5 from 17, 79.4%; Lady Hernes, 11 from 50, 22.0%, M Prescott, 25 from 116, 21 6%, Lord Huntingdox, 49 from 244, 20 1.21 rides, 19.0%; D McKerys; Errenz O'Gorrian, 23 winners and 121 rides, 19.0%; D McKerys, 23 from 130, 16.5%; Miss J Ferlam, 4 from 27, 14.8%, C Scally, 7 from 48, 14.6%; S Whiteorth, 41 from 301, 13.6%.

9-2 Mozambique 6-1 Anokalo. 7-1 Badrogath, 8-1 Enchanting Rive, Mydlons Missako. Shontane., 18-1 fadan Spongbony, Wild Mettle, 12-1 others COURSE SPECIALISTS

### RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Huntingdon Going, gase, good to set in pieces

.

.

12.30 (2m 110yd felie 1, Aubum Boy (?) Carbrity, 11-4 (-lan); 2, Grane (6-1), 3, Higheste (6-1); Composes (1-4 (-lan); 9 (m 11-1 ): Weberts Total (3 72, 61.30, 52.20 (2), 10 DF (22.30, 10) (20.80) CSF (16.27)

11627
1.00 (3rt Ch) 1. Genners Man (4 A Faccard S. 5-1) 2. Maors Legary (7-2) 3. Etyl. Francisco (9-4 '20) (3 '20) MR. Generican 3 (23 N Henderson Total 56 10 52 10 51 30 51 70 DF 19 40 Tho. 55 90 CFF 120 63 55-90 CSF 520-63 1.30 (2m 110):0 "det-1 Road Racer J A McCarry, 33-17. 2 Garger Fox (3-4 Ray) 3. King Kato (8-2) 21 ran NR: Folding 11st 12 P Weigher Total 554-00 59-60 \$1.40. 52.36 DE: 660-80 Total 5211-60 CSF 22.36 OF \$60.80 Tho. 2211 60 CSF 13.60 Tho £18.20 CSF £19.46.

22.36 OF \$60.80 Tho. 2211 60 CSF 13.038.68 carried forward to Hasham today).

2.60 (2m 110)(d ch) 1. Get Real M A Fageraid, 1.2 mg, 2. Royar Event (2-1) 3.

Placeport £8.60. Quadpot £5.10.

# Fernatch's Brother (20-1) 8 ren. 3t. 22l N Henderson, Tota: £1 60; £1.10, £1 10, £2.30. DF £1.60 CSF, £1.93, Tricast; £7.45. 2.30 (2m hdg) 1, Serrans (M A Fizgerald, 10-1): 2, Namodaj (9-4), 3, Barland Sovereign (100-30) Deseri Mountain 15-8 tay 7 nan 2, 2): Li N Henderson Tote: £9 40; £3.50, £1.60. DE: £9 40, CSF: £31 50. 3.00 (2m 41 110yd ch) 1. The Toiseach (R fromton, 8-11 lay); 2: Dollacs (25-1); 3 (Seetc Blue (8-4) 4 pan, NR, Selstan, 114, dist. J Farshawe, Tota, £1.60, OF: £9.60 CSF £10.42

CSF E10 42
3.30 Qm 110yd fizij T, Smith's Perk (G Flogen, 11-1), 2 Conchobor (4-6 lext); 3. Squaddle (7-1), 16-ren, MR Bestle Bayerd, Not o Cash For Fun, 34, 134 Mrs. J. Pomen, 1665; £18.00; £3.50. £140, £1.70. DF: £18.00 Tino £18.20. CSF £18.45.

Ingiliant CSA 034 97 (6-7 administration shakes) CSF 219 48.

2.10 (2m St th) 1, Beatson (B Powel, 7-2).

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2.10 (2m

### Plumpton

Going: soit, heavy in places 12.40 (2m 11 hole) 1, Totally Yours (A P McCoy, 2-7 fav): 2; Mad Alex (12-1); 3, Moorlandmentymaker (12-1), 9 ran. 201, 41, M Pipe Tota: 21.30; 21.10, 61.70, 52.40 DF: £3.60. Trio: £23.50 CSF: £5.42. DT 23.00. Hol. 120.30 Coff. 13 42. 1.10 (2m ch) 1. Music Please (A P McCoy. 7-2); 2. Bay Lough (14-1); 3. Lets Rumble (7-4 p-lay). Benisters Boy 7-4 p-law, 7 ran. 131. 3. Mass V Williams. Tota: £4 10; £1.60. 23.70. DF: £13.00 CSF: £38.80. 1.40 (2m 4) hole) 1, Farfadet V (A P McCoy, 8-13 tau; 2, Be My Mor (33-1); 3, hopean (14-1) 7 ran. 15, 18, M Pipe Tote: £1 60; £1 20, £2 90. DF: £14.40 CSF: £21 93

# 2.40 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Wishing William (J F Tilley, 9-4 fax); 2, Ourownfellow (11-4); 3, Sempson (7-2); 7 ren. 31, dist, Miles H Knight, Toter £3 60; £2.20, £3.10 (DF: £5.20; CSF: £8.88, 3.10 (2m 4f hdie) 1, Royale Angela (G Bradloy, 2-1 tev); 2, Kelly Mac (15-2); 3, Northern Drums (5-2); 7 ren. 34, 3, Northern Drums (5-2); 7 ren. 34, 0, 10 pr. £5.00 (CSF: £15.82; 1, 10 pr. 10 pr. £15.82; 1, 10 pr. £10 pr. £1

29.00 CSF: 215.82: 1 3.40 (3m 110yd Indie) 1, Uneinkable @cxer (A P McCoy, 11-10 tam): 2, Telleponky (9-1): 3. Esperanza N (7-1): 8 mar. 8, 1141 M Pipe Totte: 22 00: 51.40, 52 70, 52 10. DF: 57 60 CSF, 511.11 Tricast 544 Placepot: £140.20. Quadpot: £21,20, Sedgefield Going: good, good to firm in places 12.20 (2m 5i 110yd hdie) 1, Charley Lambert (E Husband, 6-4 fav); 2, Count Karmuski (9-1); 3, Donnybrook (11-1). 1)

# ran. 71, 31. J Macker Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £3.40, £5.20 DF £13.60. The £138.90. CSF: £16.81. 12.50 (2m.51.110yd hele) 1, Young Tomo (E. Calleghan, 11-10 fav), 2, Basincroff £33-1); 3, Mill-Dot (12-1), 10 ran. NR. Devicts Way, 11, 61. J Howard Johnson, Tote: £2.30; £1.50, £3.00, £1.50. DF £14.00, Yno: £47.30, CSF £48.62.

24.00. Inc. 247.30. CSF. £48 62
1.20 (3m 3f 110)rd holle) 1, Kinda Groovy (N Smith, 6-1); 2. Saucy Nun (4-1); 3, Searba (8-1) Galen 11-8 fav 6 ran. 12, 141. ( Park. Tota: £9.60; £5.10. £1.90 DF: £10 80 CSF. £28 38
1.50 (3m 3f ch.) 1, Neosa Sound (R Supple, 2-1 fav); 2, Saidom But Sovere (25-1); 3, The Wassp (16-1), 11 ran. NP: Lord Pat 111, 141 L Lungo Tota: £3.20; £1.10. £15.50. £5.20 DF: £98.50. Tric: £135 60. CSF. £56.63.
2.20 (2m 110)rd ch.) 1, Golden Hello (L Wyer, 2-1 fav); 2, Dual Image (5-1); 3, Braz's Debylit (7-2). 7 ran. NP: Wintegetes

Tricest: 229.63.
2.50 (2m 51 ch) 1. Cumberland Blues (Miss A Denle!, 10-1); 2, Julie Box Billy (2-1 fav); 3. Corbieu (4-1) 9 ran. Mit. Dragons Bay 13, 51. A Lockwood. Tote. £11.90. £2.20, £1.10. £1.90 DF. £11.90 Trices £0.90. CSF £30.66. Tricast £51.13. 3-20 (2m 11 indis) 1, Pentland Squire (A K Smath, S-1); 2, Noble Tom (9-4 tav); 3, Soldier Mak, P-2), 8 an 11/1, 191, J Jetterson Tote: \$5.70, \$140, \$140, \$140, \$110 DF: \$4.70 CSF; \$16.79 Tricest: \$5.151 Placepot: £280.80. Quadoot: £51.30. ☐ Nicky Henderson continued his fine recent form when land-

Willie, 1 41, 151 T Easterby Tote: \$2.20; \$1.10, \$2.80, DF \$8.40 CSF \$11.77 Tricast: \$29.63.

ing a 98-1 treble with Camera Man, Get Real and Serenus at Huntingdon yesterday.

THUNDERER

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

Racecal tramber. So lighter form | F -- fell. | P -- pulled up. | C -- pulled up. | P -- petased | D -- desqualified). | Full Set I mane | Cay's since | less outing: | F if lat. | (B -- bititiers | V -- prox | H. besty). | Owner in brackets. | Tramb. | Age and broof | E -- pulled | C -- pulled

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT, SOFT IN DIP (HURDLES)

# .00 OAK HANDICAP HURDLE

FORM FOCUS

Ethemsto beal Noble Tom 141 in 13-romer handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m. good to solt) with Secret Giff (15th beiter off) 251 at Leicester (2m. solf) Riverbank Rose beat Caracol 91 in 8-numer handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m. 11 good to solt) Editing unsated rider in handicap hurdle at Austree (2m. 10tyd., good); previously bear Galloping Gims 51 in 17-numer setting transicap hurdle at Warmick (2m. good). Apache Park 1514 (4h. of 5 to Run For Dante in handicap hurdle at Warmick (2m. good). Come On Pertry 321 8th of 12 to August Twelfith in Landicap hurdle at Windsor (2m. 4t, good). ERLICING can recoup Autres locces at expense of Efficaristo

### 1.30 SPRUCE NOVICES CHASE (£3,210: 2m 4l 110yd) (4 runners)

1 5111-33 DRWAL CHANCER 35 (D.F.G.S) IB Cace: M Prop 7-10-12 — A P McCoy OP - RRECROWN 323 (Ms. P Robeston) Mr. P Robeston 7-10-12 — M Richards 4751/3- LUGS BRANDGEAN 363 (F) LJ Donter M Extenso 8-10-12 — G Bradley 2/3012 - TRISTRAM'S MARKE 287 (E) [5 Recling) it Henderson 8-10-12 — M A Forgerald BETTING: 4-7 Ducals Dancer, 11-4 Trestram 5 Image 5-1 Lugs Brannigan, 50-1 Freezroen 1996: SLINGSBY 6-10-12 R Curwoody (4-5 tay) N Gaselee B ran

FORM. FOCUS

Diwall Dancer 281 3rd of 5 to Tidal Force in heardcap hurdle at Newton Abbol (2m 61, good to firm) Firecrown pulled up in nonce hurdle at Lencester (2m 41 110yd, good to soft). Lugs Brannigan 61 m.21-numer heardcap hurdle at Wasanton (2m 10yd, good), previously beat Quiet Dann 64 m.21-numer heardcap hurdle at Wiscarton (2m 61 good to firm) Trestram's Image 131 2nd of 14 to Colonel Blazer in nonce hurdle at Taumton (2m 31 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Welton Assertal 341 in 14-numer marden hurdle at Taumton (2m 11, good)

## 2.00 CHESTNUT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE

Doce More For Luck 21 2nd of 11 to Forzair in setting hundle at Bangor (2m 11, good to sad) with Admiral's Guest (feels) 52 6th brutle at Doncaste (2m 110yd, good) Chipaleta 621 10th of 13 to Fartadel V in novice handle at Uniqueter (2m, good) previously 361 4th of 12 to Agostis in 3yo novice handle at Worcester (2m, good) bring Minor (4x) bealen a distance 3d of 4 to Northern Relet in novice handle at Worcester (2m, good) Chipaleta (3x) to Northern Relet in novice handle at Mariano (2m 41 110yd, good to firm). Petros Gern 551 7th of 10 to Guttendge in novice handleap hundle at Tauration (2m 11, good)

ONCE MORE FOR LUCK has good opportunity to go one better

### 2.30 SYCAMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,785: 2m 7i 110yd) (6 runners)

1 IF1US-3 BEAR CLAW 20 (B.BF.S) (Roach Foods Uni) 0 Shemound 3-11-12 R Johnson 2 1/18-U2 ANDRE LAVAL 20 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs C Wright) h Batey 8-11-11 A Thomson 514-46P HAWADAN YOUTH 24 (F.G.S.) (I) Czarnetži) 6 McCoúrt 9-11-6 D Bridgweiter PS420-P BEAUREPARE 31 (G.F.) (Por Mell Partner): R Anner 9-11-6 S McNett 22215-P WHO IS EDURYAME 13 (B.F.) (Jouen Excelent N Henderson 7-11-0 M A Progrand 41P-5/ APPROACH THE STARS 733 (S) (W. M & E Robus) N Henderson 9-10-3 J Kananagh SETTING: 2-1 Andre Laval, 5-2 Bear Claw. 5-1 Who is Equination, 7-1 Hawaran Youth, 8-1 Beautepaire, Apr The Stars.

1996: LORD OF THE WEST 7-10-13 A Magune (2-1 fav) J.J.O Neill 5 ran FORM FOCUS

Andre Laval Vil 2nd of 7 to Sunley Bay in handicap chase at Wincarion (3m 1/110yd, good in soft) with Bear Claw (3lb better off) 27/1 3rd Hawallan Youth pulled up in handicap chase at Mincarion (2m 4/110yd, good), previously 17/1 6th of 9 to Edgemone Prince in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4/110yd, good). Beaurepaire pulled up in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2/1, good). Who is Equinarine pulled up in handicap chase at University 17/1 7th off 9 to New Co in handicap chase at University (2m 4/1, good). Approach The Sturs 44/16th of 9 to New Co in handicap chase at Clonnel (2m 4/1, good to soft)

ANDRE LAVAL can confirm Wincanton running with Bear Claw

## 3.00 ASH MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE

50-31 277) (1.2 FINITIONS)

BE BRAVE 108F (Lord MacLaural N Henderson 4-10-7 ... M A Fitzgerald 5-2-2 FRESH FRUIT DALY 13 (K Hudson) A keleway 5-10-7 ... A Bales (5) 033 FM MAGEN 6 (S Clarick) S Brodschae 7-10-7 ... S Wynne PP JLL 27 (Henra Associates) S Brodschae 6-10-7 ... S Wynne POPUP- LADYMALORID 422 (Blomingstone Parimership) M R Bosley 5-10-7 | Lamvenoc Syc-633 LOTTSCHEGKIS EXPRESS 18 (A Capperson 10 Canadria 5-10-7 Sophia Michael (5) 00000 MARY FRANCIS 11 (L Balloger) L Grassch 4-10-7 ... L Farvey 4 MATTHE CHARIN 32 (Pell Mell Parinces) C Moriock 5-10-7 ... L Harvey 214-14 POTTER ASAM 21 (BF.5.5) LI Patier I O Nicholson 5-10-7 ... DOUBTRA. O NEEDWOOD MUTKON 13 (Sommi Racing) B Morgan 4-10-7 ... L Harvey 214-14 POTTER ASAM 21 (BF.5.5) LI Patier I O Nicholson 5-10-7 ... DOUBTRA. O NOVAL CBLUPI 18 (6 Far) D Williams 4-10-7 ... Mr S Darack (5) 4-10-7 ... Mr S Darack (6) 4-10-7 ... Mr Marack (6) 4-10-7 .

BETTING: 5-2 Poter Again, 3-1 Be Brave, 4-1 Fresh Fruit Delly, 11-2 Fm Maggy, 8-1 Malive Chaim, Lotschberg Express, 14-1 38, Where's Miratida, 33-1 others. 1996. POTTER'S GALE 5-(1-3 A Magnire (5-4 law) () Nacholson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

Fresh Furit Daily 1M 2nd of 13 to Atlantic Mist in novice hurdle at Taurdon (2m 11, good). 1m Maggy 161 3dd of 10 to Wahao Samulo (2m 11, good). 1m Maggy 161 3dd of 10 to Wahao Samulo (2m 18) so Hill Farm Blues in mares novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) with Potter Again (levels) 434 4th. 187 191 5th of 19 to Namoodal in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 11 100vd, good). Lethyralord pulled up in molden hurdle at Newton Abbet (2m 11, good). Lotschiberg Express 261 3rd of 5 to Noisy Miner in novice hurdle at Market Adaptic (2m 11, good). Lotschiberg Express 261 3rd of 5 to Noisy Miner in novice hurdle at Market (2m 14, good to soft), previously vif 3rd of 10 to 01 Mother in mares novice hurdle at Warvick (2m, good to soft). Mary Francis 531 12th of 17 to Hartegom Chours in novice hurdle at Warvick (2m, good). Bodd to 501). Native Charm 4V31 4th of 11 to Dines in novice hurdle at Warvick (2m, good). Reveloped Muttan 481 7th of 13 to Fartadet V in novice hurdle at Warvick (2m 10 cold). Soft, Where's Micanda 331 8th of 16 to Latin Mistress in mares national hurdle at Hereford (2m 11, good). Poyal Celebrate classified 8th 8th of 10 to Latin Mistress in mares national hurdle at Hereford (2m 11, good). Poyal Celebrate classified 8th 9th 10 to 10

POTTER AGAIN may reverse Haydock placings with I'm Maggie

# 3.30 BIRCH HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,054: 2m 4l 110yd) (5 runners) BETTING: 15-8 Beechtirstd Flyer, 7-2 Torda, Nettegnty, 4-1 Wassi Smeet, 3-1 lode: 15m.

1996: WASSL STREET 4-10-13 N Williamson (4-1) k Margan 7 ran FORM FOCUS

Wassi Street 71 2nd of 6 to The Tolseach in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5), good to firm), previously best Harlequin Chorus short head in 4-miner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft).

Beechfield Piyer beat El Don 19/1 in 10-miner handicap hurdle at Itemster (2m 41 110yd, good to soft), with Neftigrity (56b better off) 554/4 41. Torrisa 25/17h of 20 to Guiger Fox in novice hurdle at Warnist (2m, good to soft), previously 41 2nd of 9 to Mesa Verde in malden hurdle at Fonbued 1(2m, 110yd, good) to soft), toder Wan tell in grade it hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft), previously 21 5th of 11 to Jihaad in handicap hurdle at Thurles (2m, heavy)

		OUR	SE S	PECIALISTS			
TRAINERS	Whs	Ross	-	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rudes	9
N Henderson	7	25	28 0 25 9 25 6 19 0 12 7	G Supple A P McCoy	3	6	50) 25 20. 17
D Nicholson	14	55 54 57 55	25.9	A P McCov	11	44	25
M Pipe	21	82	25.6	G Bradley	- 5	29	20.
O Sherwood	4	21	190	M A Fitzgesald	9	29 53 67	17
Mes J Pitman	7	55	127	W Marston	10	67	14.
W Chr	3	34	88	D Bridonsder	6	45	17

# Blinkered first time

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hexham: 1.20 Abcal. 1 50 Ahbejaytus. 2.50 Patey Court. 3.20 Fassan. Lingfield Paric 12.40 Ladybower, Flood's Hot Stuff. 2.10 i See You Sydney 2.40 Silver Joy 3.10 Clonoe.

### Cheltenham return

MAJOR BELL is on course for a return to Cheltenham for Saturday's Tripleprint Gold Cup. The Alistair Whillanstrained gelding chased home Sparky Gayle in the Cathcart Chase on his last visit to Prestbury Park in March.



7.77.75 150 <u>1.19<del>-2</del></u> 1.10

# Forest set deadline on legal action

NOTTINGHAM Forest have Eve for Anderlecht to respond to claims for compensation, after the Belgian club this year admitted having made a payment to the referee of the controversial 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final. Phil Soar, the chief executive, said Forest will take the matter to the civil courts if Anderlecht refuse to acknowledge their letter by December

The Forest players involved in the second-leg tie — which Anderlecht won 3-0 to ensure a place in the final against Tottenham Hotspur - and the club are employing a Belgian lawyer to prepare separate claims which they believe could realise up to £2 million. Constant Vanden Stock, a

former Anderlecht chairman. told Belgian television last September that Guruceta Muro, the referee, was paid £18,000 the day after the game. Earlier this year. Anderlecht admitted paying blackmail money to two men stretching back to 1984.

Soar has written to Anderlecht asking for discussions about an out-of-court settlement. He said: "Anderlecht know how we feel on this matter and they also know we would like to hear from them. If that does not happen by December 24 then we will, in all likelihood. lodge our claim with the courts."

The claim is based on estimated revenue which would have been generated from a two-legged final against Tottenham. Forest said their share of gate receipts and television income would have been close to £1.5 million. In addition, the players - including the England internationals, Steve Hodge and Garry Birtles - cite foregone win bonuses and subsequent improvements that would have been made to

their contracts. Uefa said initially that they were powerless to impose punishment on Anderlecht because the offence took place more than ten years ago. However, they have since imposed a one-year ban from European competitions which will come into force when Anderlecht next qualify. Forest have put a case to Uefa to although Anderlecht have ap-

pealed against the ban. Forest were 2-0 up after the first leg at the City Ground. In Belgium, they had what appeared to be a fair goal disallowed by Muro, who also awarded a dubious penalty against Kenny Swain. Muro, from Spain, died in a car accident ten years ago. Anderlecht lost the final on penalties. **FOOTBALL** 

# United aiming to shift Europe's balance of power

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN TURIN

FROM the outside, it looks just like another dreary, nondescript piece of suburban architecture, a great sprawl of a building that lurks on the Turin ring road. It used to be the flagship factory of Fiar, the

car giant that bankrolls Juventus, but it fell into disuse and they turned it into a botel. Last night, Manchester Uni-ted checked in.

Having taken up residence at one faded symbol of an Italian institution, Alex Ferguson and his players will to-night attempt to highlight the almost intangible decline of another. A sixth successive win in the European Cup Champions' League is their Stadio Delle Alpi. If they achieve it, their opponents will slide out of the competition, humbled by the team that seeks to claim its mantle as the most respected side in

United, of course, are already safely through to the quarter-finals, the next stage of the competition. If all had once assumed that this would be the decisive tie, the one that decided group B, United, 3-2 victors over the Italian champions at Old Trafford at the beginning of October, have been so dominant that they have scythed away the pres-

sure already. They will be playing for pride, to try to avenge the 1-0 defeat here last season that shook them to the core.

peting with the urgency and the tension of a team that fears its supremacy may have be-

That disparity showed in the press conferences of the respective coaches yesterday. Marcello Lippi was passionate and dogmatic, trying to lift his team and its supporters to-wards the win that will give them a fighting chance of sneaking into the last eight as one of two best losers. Ferguson, once clasping his hands together in mock prayer that Peter Schmeichel, his goalkeeper, might be reduced to the role of a spectator, was all

magnanimity and courtesy.

The fate of Juventus does not concern me," Ferguson said. "My only concern is

**GROUP B** 

Manchester United. I think Juventus are a fabulous club, a class club and I have got great respect for their coach. Actually, I hope that they get through but not at the expense

of us losing.
"In the first half of last season's match here, there was no expression in our play. The players were overpowered and intimidated but I don't

# Strachan secures his future with Coventry

GORDON STRACHAN, the Coventry City manager, has signed a contract that will keep him at Highfield Road until 2003. The offer of the extension to his original agreement, which runs out in 1999, was made by Bryan Richardson, the Coventry chairman, almost two months ago, but Strachan claimed he

Coventry won only one of 11 FA Carling Premiership matches in that period, but Richardson still feared he might lose Strachan in the manner of Ray Harford's denarture from West Bromwich Albion last week.

Harford had also persistently declined to sign his contract and, eventually, was lured away by Queens Park

terday: "It's only a bit of scribble on a piece of paper." Gary McAllister, the Cov-entry captain, has resumed training and is likely to return against Tottenham Hotspur at Highfield Road on Saturday after a knee injury. Plans for a radical overhaul

of the Football League, in-12 teams, will be discussed at a meeting in London today involving all 72 Nationwide League clubs. There are five proposals: maintain the existing structure; three divisions of 20, 26 and 26 teams; four divisions of 18 to 20 clubs; six divisions of 12 clubs, and a "super league" of 12 teams followed by two of 24 and

I think we have to show how we have improved in terms of our authority. "Playing in front of a packed house of 75,000 here will be absolutely brilliant for my players. They will love it. But if we were to perform badly then a lot of questions would be asked. We have got to

have shown in the Champions' League and this is the biggest test for us." That Ferguson, who has left Paul Scholes at home in England nursing flu, should even be in a position to refute the idea that United would show the great Juventus mercy was an indication of just how far his side has travelled

continue the upward trend we

since last season, when Lippi's team taught them a lesson at home and away. Now United, truly firing on all cylinders, so confident in their renascent goalscorer, Andy Cole, and his burgeoning partnership with Teddy Sheringham, that they felt able yesterday to pull out of the auction for the services of River Plate's Chilean striker, Marcelo Salas, are in the ascendancy, afraid of no one. Lippi, who will be forced to

start the game without the suspended Alessandro del Piero and the injured Nicola Amoruso and Didier Deschamps, will field Daniel Fonseca and Filippo Inzaghi in attack. Compelled to chase the game, he promised yesterday that Juventus would not throw all caution to the wind.

"We have a great conviction that we can beat Manchester United." Lippi said. "We believe we will win even though they are currently one of the strongest teams in the world. Tomorrow, we will see how great they have become."
Increasingly, the signs are
that United are indeed on the

verge of greatness. In five attempts, they have never beaten an Italian club in Italy but this time the omens are good. Ferguson was so relaxed about the talents of his team that he even brushed aside a lavishly gifted Juventus midfield general. Zinedine Zidane, was his favourite player. "All my favourite players wear red jerseys," he said with a smile. JUVENTUS (4-4-2): A Penuzi — A Brindelli, C Ferrara, P Montero, M Torricelli — A di Livio, A Conte, Z Zidane, A Tacchiresti — Fitzegli, D Fonsaca. MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): P Schmeichel — G Neville, G Pallicein, Berg, P Neville — D Beckham, R Johnsen, N Buti — A Cole, E Sheringham, O G



# Dalglish pays the price for Newcastle's spending cuts

KENNY DALGLISH is a guarded man. During a round of golf one day, Gordon Strachan, his playing partner, inquired as to how many shots Dalglish had taken on a particular hole. "How many do you think I have?" came the

reply.

At his press conference to discuss Newcastle United's final European Cup Champions' League tie, it was interest-ing to hear him touch on the subject of transfers, and the state of his squad at St James' Park. For once, the Newcastle manager let his guard down, although, given his nature, it was probably a deliberate

The North East club has been strangely quiet in the cheap, young players of potential and recruiting experienced men in free transfers. It is an unsatisfactory situation, and the manager finally hinted at his frustration yesterday.

successful without spending money." For weeks, the Newcastle

board has stored up problems

"We need players," he said.
"No team in history has been

by failing to provide the funds Dalglish requires to plug the gaps left by injuries. Now the dam has burst, with an ignominious exit from the Champions' League swiftly followed by two crippling defeats in the FA Carling Premiership. The visit of Dynamo Kiev

tonight is likely to provide further evidence of the problems that face Dalglish. The Ukraine champions have progressed serenely through the qualifying stages and offer a formidable examination. They are likely to be under strength. with players on yellow cards rested, but will still be more than a match for the English

side in our group by some distance, and considering the strength of the group, that is some compliment," Dalglish said. "They have quality. It's not the size of your squad that counts as much as the quality."

The quality Dalglish referred to comes, in particular, in the form of Andrei

Shevchenko and Sergei Reb-

rov, a forward partnership of quite devastating potential, and a defensive line led by the exemplary Alexandr Golovko. All three have been targets for clubs across the Continent. Shevchenko is possibly the

at present, with Milan, Juventus and Manchester United all registering an interest. Rebrov is similarly coveted, and Golovko has been watched by Liverpool on several occasions. Dalglish would also be interested in the trio, after his

most wanted player in Europe

first-hand experience, had financial constraints not forced him to lower his sights somewhat.
So it is that Dalglish will

Asprilla. Ian Rush is back in training, but Newcastle's striking forces are too depleted to expect anything more than an honourable failure against

# **Italians** ponder difficult equation

BY MATT DICKINSON

THE clamour to make next year's European Cup Champions' League format consist of four groups of six rather than six of four carries an advan-tage other than simply in-creasing the number of games - and thus the swelling bank accounts - of Europe's lead-ing clubs. It will also save the frantic calculations at the end of the matches tonight to discover which two clubs are the best runners-up, thus join-

ing the group winners in the quarter-finals.

Already through are Manchester United, Borussia Dortmund, the holders, and, barring unprecedented goal-scoring feats against them, Bayern Munich and the impressive Dynamo Kiev. In group D. Real Madrid should cruise through with a home victory over an ailing FC Porto, while group F is deli-cately balanced, with AS Monaco and Bayer Leverkusen level and due to meet in Germany.

A convenient draw would leave them on 13 points and guarantee both a passage, Leverkusen taking one of the best runners-up spots. The other runners-up place is at present in the hands of Rosenborg, the champions of Norway, who knocked AC Milan out of the competition last year. A win at Olympiakos, bottom of group D, will be enough to ensure that they advance.

Any other scenario will send the appropriate into a mother

the competition into a mathematical frenzy. If Resemborg lose, Juventus, on nine points, are next in line if they can beat United. Meanwhile, Paris Saint-Germain, also on nine points in group E, will be desperate for a heavy victory at home to Besiktas to give them a chance.

To determine who goes through, total points count first, followed by goal difference, goals scored and then goals scored away from home. Get your calculators ready.

	_	
. '	Group A	. ~
	PWDLF BDortmund	A Pt 3 1 4 4 8
		B .
	Group C PWDLF	A Ph
:	PSV Einchoven 5 2 2 1 7	4 1 8 8
	Group D	
	P W D L F Resi Meditid	A Ph 4 10 6 10 7 4 12
	P W D L F Bayern Munich: 5 4 0 1 13 Peris S-G	A Pb 5 12 9 9 7 6 9 3
I	PW D L F Monaco	A Pts 6 12 5 12

# "Who has the best football

coverage on the Net?" enters the totact lookball never with LineCour, the UK entert

ne seet the Internet 1982, Call 0800 111 210.

SQUASH

# Nicol almost at the summit

PETER NICOL is certain to be listed as world No I for the first time as a result of his win over Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, in Bombay last Saturday, but he will have to wait until February for his life

ambition to become fact. Under the mathematical formula which controls the ranking points distribution of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), Jansher will remain marginally ahead of the Scottish left-hander on the list issued on January 1.

Even if he were to lose in the early stages of the Heliopolis Open, which started yesterday in Cairo without Nicol's involvement. Jansher holds enough points in hand from the year to stay marginally ahead. Next year the PSA is to issue its ranking lists monthly

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

instead of the present twomonthly schedule, and Jansher will be the first victim of the change.

When the commitments and results for both players from the January periods of both 1997 and 1998 are thrown into the reshaped balance, the PSA has confirmed that Nicol will become only the third man to have displaced Jansher from his No l spot since January

Within the space of a month Jansher has lost control of both the world open championship he had won eight times and of the No I position from which he had been briefly removed only by Ja-hangir Khan and Chris Dittmar in the previous ten years. He missed the world open in Kuala Lumpur in November in order to avoid being drawn into a child maintenance dispute with his former wife, Violet Soh, in the

Malaysian Sharia court.

In Egypt just before the world chamoionships. Jansher claimed he could win every tournament around the world open to demonstrate his continuing superiority, then regain the title next year. Instead he was beaten in Qatar by Jonathon Power, of Canada, and in Kuwait and India by Nicol.

Bombay was Nicol's fourth successive win over Jansher this season and his first words were: "I have worked and waited so long for this." Now he has just to wait until February 1.

began the process of mentally erasing the worst defeat of his

Higgins was beaten unexpectedly by Gary Ponting in the last 64 of the recent United Kingdom championship and described being forced to watch the event on television as "purgatory". His determination to assume a more active role here in Bingen was

"I've got to get what hap-pened at the UK out of my mind. It was a big blow, but it's stupid to dwell on things like that." Higgins said. "I missed far too many easy pots again out there [yesterday], but at least I got the result."

SNOOKER

# Higgins takes positive step

career by overcoming Martin Clark 5-2 for a place in the quarter-finals of the German

By PHIL YATES Clark won the opener on

the pink, but Higgins took the next four frames, assisted by runs of 74 and 121. Clark stole the sixth frame on the black with a clearance initiated by a fluked green, and should have maintained his revival by winning the seventh in similarly tight circumstances. The diminutive West Mid-

lander, who overcame Steve Davis in the final qualifying round, required the black to educe Higgins's lead to 4-3, but, with the cue ball under the baulk cushion, his intended pot to a middle pocket went

Higgins duly sank it and will now play Anthony Hamilton or Jason Ferguson. There was more than a

touch of déid vu when Jamie Burnett, of Hamilton, recovered from a 4-2 deficit to defeat Gary Wilkinson 5-4 it was the third time the Scot has prevailed by this margin in their three meetings in

professional events. Burnett, who beat Stephen Hendry in the second round of the Grand Prix last October, compiled a break of 51 in the seventh frame, survived a scrappy eighth, and, sided by a run of 44 in the decider completed a notable fight

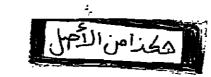
On his first appearance in the quarter-finals of a ranking tournment. Burnett will mee Shokat Ali, Pakistan's leading player, or, more likely, Ken Doherty, the world champion.

Results, page 45

JUVENTUS V'S MANCHESTER UNITED

WED IOTH DECEMBER 7.30 PM





.\_-3 [

CRICKET

# Lloyd urges action after humiliation

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CLIVE LLOYD, the West Indies manager, dies manager, yesterday urged selectors to rethink their plans for the Test series with England after a humiliating whitewash in Pakistan.

Lloyd, who captained West Indies during their recordbreaking unbeaten sequence in the 1980s, watched as the three series against Pakistan team slumped to a 3-0 series while West Indies captain, defeat by losing the final Test by ten wickets in Karachi.

It was the first time West . Indies had suffered a whitewash since A. F. P. Chapman led England to a 3-0 triumph over R. K. Nunes's side in 1928 and only the third time that Pakistan have achieved such a scoreline.

But more worrying for Lloyd and the coach, Malcolm Marshall, were the margins of, victory during the series -West Indies lost by an innings at Peshawar and Rawalpindi before suffering their comprehensive defeat in Karachi. West Indies have won just England."

A KNOCKOUT finish -

made up of semi-finals and a

final — is one of the options

being considered by the Inter-

national Cricket Council

(ICC) for its proposed World

Test championship (Simon Wilde writes). An ICC sub-

committee, chaired by Jagmohan Dalmiya, the

council's president, is to ex-

plore ways of operating a

championship and report back to a meeting at Lord's

"I suggested Tests should

be played in different coun-

tries at different times on a

next June.

two of their past eight Tests as they prepare to face England — against whom they have not lost a series since 1967-68 - in a five-Test series in the Caribbean, starting in the New

"It has gone from bad to worse," Lloyd, who won all said. This is the best side in the West Indies and they should perform as such.

"Really and truly they haven't come up to the mark; our cricket has been really bad. This is the second game where the bowlers have got us into a position and the batters have let us down. Looking towards the future we have to get some young batsmen who really want to bring West

Indies cricket back to the top. The guys did not put up their best and now it's up to the Board to rethink seriously for the coming series against

points system, Dalmiya, a

critic of drawn Tests, said at

the end of a two-day ICC

meeting in Calcutta yester-day. Otherwise, people will

get bored watching five-day

one-day tournament involv-ing all nine Test-playing

teams will be held in Sharjah

next September and October.

The meeting decided that a

Fest matches:"

side a World Cup.

## match award for career-best match figures of nine for 89. Points system may be

Campbell 50: Saylain Mushiaq 5 for 5
Second Innings
S L Campbell of Inzarham b Waqar
S C Williem's love b Waqar
S C Williem's love b Waqar
S C Williem's love b Waqar
S C Land e Mohammed b Saqlain
C L Hooper b Washin Alvarin
S Chandeppaul of Mohn b Saqlain
R I C Holder o Aarm's b Saqlain
T D Williams b Saqlain
T B Sistop not out
F A Rose o Mohn b Washin Alvarin
C A Walsh b Washin Alvarin
M V Dellon low b Washin Alvarin
M V Dellon low b Washin Alvarin
Extras (b 7, b 2, nb 6)

Pakistan wrapped up the

whitewash yesterday with their captain, Wasim Akram.

taking three wickets in six

balls in less than an hour's

play on the fourth day. Re-

suming at 198 for seven, West

Indies avoided their third

successive innings defeat, but

lost Franklyn Rose in the

fourth over of the day after he

edged to the wicketkeeper.

Wasim took two further

wickets in his next over to

dismiss the tourists for 212

yorking the West Indies cap-

tain, Courtney Walsh, and

removing Mervyn Dillon leg-

It left Pakistan a victory target of 12 which they achieved with Azhar

Mahmood hitting Walsh to

the boundary, Saglain Mush-taq, won the man-of-the-

Moin Khan, for six.

before.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-19, 3-140 4-182, 5-186, 6-191, 7-193, 8-207, 9-208 BOWLING: Washri Altram 16 47-42-4; Wagar Youngs 60-31-2; Azhar Mahmood 3-0-32-0; Mushtag Ahmed 8-0-72-0; Saqlan Mushtag 19-9-84. PANSTAN: First Innings 417 (Aamer Schad 160, liga Ahmed 151: M V Dillon 5 for 111. C A Walsh 4 for 74)

Second Innings imad Wasim not out : Mahmood not out. .

Bangladesh and the United States were also considered. BOWLING: Walsh 3-0-11-0: Rose 2-0-4-0 In terms of participants, it Man of the match: Saqlain Mushleq, Men of the senes: Aamir Sohad (Parus C A Walsh (West Indies) promises to be the biggest one-day tournament held out-



Adam Hollioake, the England captain, and Alec Stewart, left, get some valuable net practice yesterday in Sharjah, where the team will play their opening match in the Sharjah Champions Trophy against India tomorrow

# England rely on experienced hands

AFTER months of preparation, England today get down to the business of defending the World Cup they won in 1993, when they take on South Africa in Hyderabad. England, the joint tournament favourites with New Zealand, will have benefited from beat-

day series in the summer. That South Africa were able to compete on anything like level terms was an achievement in itself and a result, in no small measure, of the influence of Conrad Hunte, the former West Indies opening batsman. Hunte has been national development coach

dxc4

Oxd1+

Kx17

Rd8+ Nd7

Nd4

Rxd8

Bxc4 Ne5

Bh4+

816 Ra6

Bg5 Ra3

Nexf3 a

ing South Africa 2-1 in a one-

By Thrasy Petropoulos

for the United Cricket Board of South Africa for four years and an important part of his brief is the development of women's cricket.

He believes experience holds the key to the competition. He said: "England are the most disciplined. Expertise from Dermot Reeve. Mike Gatting and Geoff Arnold - you can't buy that kind of experience. And that's why I've been asked to help. We are not looking to break down the England team's discipline — we are going to fry and match it.

England choose from a full

England enjoyed two comfortable wins over the Andhra Pradesh women's state side in their build-up, and perhaps their greatest advantage is that they toured India as recently as 1995. Of their squad of 14, only Charlotte Edwards, Laura MacLeod and Bev Nicholson were not on that trip.

Clare Taylor, the opening bowler and a double international at cricket and football, knows what she is up against. "The wickets are a lot slower in India," she said. "It is a quicker bowler's nightmare,

so you have to concentrate on line and length and aim to frustrate them out."

squad, with Edwards, at 17 the youngest, expected to open the batting with Jan Brittin, 38, the oldest. They should prove too powerful, but the weather may be a hindrance. Not a ball was bowled in the two pool B matches yesterday and prospects of play remain

amu prospects of play remain threatened.

ENGLAND: K Smithes (East Midlands, capiam). J Brittin (Surey). J Cassay (East Midlands). C Connor (Sussex). B Daniels (West Midlands). C Edwards (East Anglia). K Leng (Yorkshre). L MacLeod (Larres and Cheshre). S Midladie (Yorkshre). B Nicholson (Yorkshre). H Plimmer (Yorkshre). Reddem (Derbyshre) M Reynard (Yorkshre). C Taylor (Yorkshre).

**ICE HOCKEY** 

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Sunday Florida 5 Washington 4 Chicago 3 Edmonton 3 (OT) Monday: New York Rangers 3

# SPORT

# Hickman goes his own way

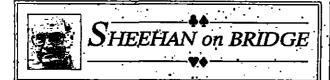
**SWIMMING:** James Hickman, the world shortcourse champion and Olympic finalist, has parted from his coach. Dave Calleja, after a series of disputes, ending one of the most successful partnerships

in British swimming. News of the rift comes as Hickman prepares to qualify for the world championships in Australia next month, at the fourday British championships which start in Sheffield

tomorrow. **BOWLS:** Graham Robertson, the holder, and John Price, who has won the title three times, will meet in the semi-finals of the CIS (Insurance) Scottisl Masters at Coatbridge today. In the quarter-finals, Robertson beat Robert Marshall, the Scottish indoor singles champion 7-4. 4-7, 7-4 and Price defeated David Gourlay. the 1996 world indoor singles champion, 7-4, 7-6.

**HOCKEY:** Soma Singh, 32, who won 65 outdoor and 14 indoor caps for England, announced his retirement yesterday from international hockey. After spending one day in a training camp he decided that he could not spare the time to prepare for the World Cup in Holland and the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia next year.

RUGBY UNION: Conor McGuinness, the St Mary's College scrum half, is not available for selection for (reland's match against Italy at Bologna on Saturday week because of a shin stress fracture. The team will be announced today.



introduced for Tests

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

This is an illustration of an extension "splinter" bid. Dealer South . Love all Rubber bridge ◆ 43

> 'Y KJ8654' + AK103 **→** 5 **◆ AQ865** • 110 · ♥ A3 . 4 J985 . **♦ Q7642** Ŝ. **★ KQ109** ♠ K9F2 ▼ Q 10972

Pass 4 D (1) What should South bid?

(I) South's Four Diamond bid

was a splinter bid, showing

and leave the decision to your diamond shortage and good trump support. Normally, splinters show a singleton. In partner. North knew what to do this sequence, Two Diamonds by South would be just a general forcing bid, so Three when Five Diamonds came round to him. He doubled and East-West went for 1,100. Diamonds at rubber bridge Note that if the ace of spades would be a singleton-showing had been over the king. Five

splinter. Hence, Four Dia-Diamonds still goes three or four off with Five Hearts one monds is a void-showing splinter. ☐ The Times Book of Bridge 1. South was Irving Gordon, a successful rubber bridge player and sometime partner of in the Boris Schapiro Macallan Pairs. Many players would bid over Five Diamonds with the South hand, but Gordon correctly passed. It is the old theme — do not bid

a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher. B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing). ☐ Robert Sheehan writes on

heart support. Have you got

anything more? No, so shut up

bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend your hand twice. You have already described a hand with section on Saturday. a void diamond and good

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PAPAUMU a. An evergreen shrub b. A voluminous skirl c. Sago portidge

ROESTI a. Fried potatoes b. A Black Forest hut c. Alexander technique

ROGERENE a. A loose woman b. Hair cream c. A sectarian OKHRANA -

a. A curry spice . b. A class of yacht c. Secret police Answers on page 46

KEENE  $ar{\mathit{o}}$ n CHESS Queen's Gambit Accepted By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

6 B14

12 ЫЗ

13 Ke1

bxc4

Ne2

93 K#2

. Nd3

25 Rd2 26 Rb2

29 Nd3

e5

White resigns

Fide championship

There are four British representatives in the Fide championshin at Groningen. In the first round, grandmaster Peter Wells, of London, faces Boris Alterman, of Israel. Grandmasters Nigel Short, Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler have all been seeded to the second round. Each match in the early stages consists of just two games, with fast time limit games available as a tiebreaking procedure, should it

prove necessary...
The reigning Fide champion is Anatoly Karpov, of Russia, who was in London last week. promoting his new Disney book of chess, in which characters such as Mickey Mouse and Goofy introduce young players to the game. Karpov is guaranteed over \$750,000 in prize money already, since he is directly seeded to the final. I believe that his main rival . for the title is the Indian grandmaster Viswanathan

Anand. In order to gain some much needed practice, Karpov has just contested a six-game match in Indonesia, consisting of blindfold games, fast games and normal time limit games. He was not entirely successful and could only manage a 3-3 draw against a middle-ranking grandmaster. Here is one of Karpov's blindfold losses. White: Anatoly Karpov Black: Utut Adianto

Diagram of final position

section on Saturday.

chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend

Jakarta 1997 WINNINGMOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Ni Hua Simonovic, Beijing, 1997. Black is a piece down, but the white king has been completely stripped of pawn cover. How did Black now capitalise on the open files?

Solution on page 46

7 6 2 4 全 3 2 1 2 1 abcdetqh Raymond Keene writes on

Kick-off 7:30 unless stated Galatasaray v Parma (7.45) Sparta Prague v B Dortmund (7.45) Group B FC Kosace v Feyendord (7 45) . . . . Juventus v Manchester Utd (7 45) . . .

Group D · Group E

Bayer Leverkusen v AS Monaco (7 45) Sporting Lisbon v Lierse SK (7 45) REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FA XI v Ryman League (at Kingstonian FC) " LIVE! CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ACTION MAN. UTD. 11/4

FOR THE RECORD

**World Series Cap** Australia v South Africa SYDNEY (South Africa won loss): South Africa beat Australia by 45 runs SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten c Warne b Redfel
H H Gibbs run out
L Nussen c Glichrist b Moody
"W J Cronje run out
J H Kalls st Gdctrist b M E Waugh
N Rhodes run out J N Rhodes run out.

S M Pollock c Moody b M E Waugh
B M McMillan run out.
10 J Richardson not out
P L Symoor not out.

Extras (ib 5, w 8, nb 1)

Total (8 wide, 50 overs) A A Donald did not bas. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-36, 3-40, 4-44, 5-105, 6-125, 7-140, 8-161

BOWLING: Rettlel 10-1-18-1, Bichel 5-0-26-0; Moody 8-3-10-1; Harvey 7-0-36-0; Warne 10-0-38-0, M E Waugh 10-0-39-2 AUSTRALIA

Edras (10 3. nb 1) .........

Total (39.1 overs)...... FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-12, 3-38, 4-79, 5-97, 6-97, 7-100, 8-104, 9-123 BOWLING Pollock 8-1-25-0, Klusener 0-24-5, Donaid 6-0-26-0, McMillan 29-2, Symcox 10-2-18-2. Man of the match: L Nuscher Umpres P Parker and D Harper

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL). Dallas 13 Carplina 23 BASKETBALL. EUROPEAN CUP: Honved (Hun) 85 (McMahan 31, Dunkin 21) London Towers 70 (Gotthed 17, Hamilton 15, Baldi 11) (in BOWLS JAKARTA: Johnnie Walker Super Tour First-round scores: 67: N Faido (GB). Pamewk (Swe) 69: E Els (SA) 70. Woosnam (GB) F Casas (Fhe) 7: Boonchu Ruangiat (Thai) 74: M Nasi

COATBRIDGE: CIS Scotlish Masters Singles: Quarter-finals: G Robertso. (Scot) br R Marshall (Scot) 7-4, 4-7, 7-4, Price (Wales) bt D Gourley (Scot) 7-4, 7-6.

CURLING

FUSSEN, Germany: European champion-ships (Brilish results and over all placings). Women: Group A: Third round: Scotland 9 Listembourg 5 Pourth round: Scotland and Switzerfand, 3 equal, Nonvey and Listem-bourg; Sequal, France and Italy Group A2-Third round: 1 equal Germany, Swicden and Denmank, 4, Finland, 5, Czech, Republic, 6, Austria, Group B: Third round: England 14 Holland 7: England 9 Russia 6 Positions: 1. England; 2. Holland, 3. Russia, Ment, Group A: Third round: Scotland 10 England, 7. Fourth round: England 11 Holland 3, Scotland 8 Austria 6 Positions: Group A1: 1, Scotland 2 equal, Denmark and Germany, 4 equal, England

Denmark and Germany, 4 equal, England Holland and Austria Group A: 1, Sweden: 2. Finland, 3. cqual, Luvambourg, and Switzerland, 5. Norway, 6. Italy Group B: Third round: Wales 12 Bulgana 3. Wales 8 France 7. Positions: 1, Wales 2 equal, Russia and France 4. Czech Republic, 5, Bulgana

**FOOTBALL** 

Monday's late results Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Shefield Wednesday 2 Barraley 1

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHELD: Southern section: First round: Bristol Rovers 1

Cambridge Unsted 0.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Bradicid Park Avenue 1 Leigh RMI 1

Postponed: Groat Harwood v Witton Third qualifying round replay: Margeta 5

Corty 1

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Semi-final, second lag: Postponed: Shelbourne v Duridals.

AVEN INSURBANCE COMBINATION: First

Dundali.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First divesion: Luten Town 6 Swedon Town 0 PONTRYS LEAGUE: Premier divesion: Berningham City 2 Notingham Foxes 0 First divesion: Leicester City 1 Oldham Atteler 0.

First division: Letester Cty 1 Oldhem Athletic 0 THE TIMES FA VOUTH CUP. Second round: Busion 0 Nottingham Forest 5. Cheitea 2 Wimbledon 2 Swanses 2 Brenford 2, West Ham 2 Milwall 0; Wathor 6 Northampton 3, Bury 0 Peterborough 2

TODAY'S FIXTURES

European Cup Champions' League Group A

Group C

Bayern Munich v IFK Gothenburg (7 45) Paris Saint-Germain v Besiktas (7 45) Group F ·

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Altrinchem. DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Cup: Second round Corby v Illustion Salisbury v Bashley: Havant v Dorchester AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton v Queens Park Ranger; [2 0]. Ipsanch v Southameton (7 0): Portsmouth v Odord Utd (7 0), Wimbledon v Arsenal (at Plough Lana 2 0), Wartledon v Arsenal (at Plough Lana 2 0), Wartledon v Swindon (at Northwood PC). PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Stoke (at Widnes RL 7 0). First division: Micdlesbroogh v Botton (7 0), Port Vale v Wolverhampton (7 0). Second division: Bernstey v Cartiste (7,0), Black-pool v Wiresham (7 0), Pool-pool v Wiresham (7 0), UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division

rami Arnott insurance North League: Prist of Insurance Rooting v RTM

FIRS DAVISARII. VIENTALIA NEWCASSIE
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey v Greenwich
MINERVA SPARTIAN SOUTH MIDLANDS
LEAGUE: Premier division north;
Toddington v Bedford Toddington v Bedford
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND
COMBINATION: Premier division: Contnertial Star v Massey Ferguson
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Cup: Secand round, first leg: Wolverbampton v
Caciley Town.
SEWSON EASTERN COMMITS 1EA. JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEA-GUE: Premier division; Slowmarker v

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First of-vision: Cowes Sports v Downton: Romsey v GOSPON UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First ONUTE I SUSSECT CURN'T EPUBLIE PRO division: Chichester v Wick, Littlehampton v Selsey John O'Hara League Cup: Second round: Eastbourne Town v Purgner THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: West Bromwich v Manchester Cny; Torquay v Bristol Cny; Totlenham v Reading, Entled v Bristol Rovers

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweitser League: New-casile Eagles v Manchester Giants (7:30) Classic Cota National Cup: Semi-finel, first leg: Thames Valley Tigers v Birmingham Sullets (6:0).

Blackburn Rovers 3 (set 2-2 after 90° SCHOOLS - MATCH: Bootle Durathorne Cup: Quarter-final; Brentw 0 Botton 5 SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scothish Eagles 2 Manchester Storm 2 (OT) RUGBY UNION

17 Cambridge

(at Twackenhami
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Under18 Cup: London and the South East Third 
round: Lord Wandsworth Coll 20 Whingin O 
Toribridge 19 Eithem 14 Framingtram 11 
Bashop Stortiord HS 3 Middlands: Fourth 
round: Bromsgrove 31 Mejurt St Mary's 5. 
Bediord Modern 27 Old Saniford Hoop 19 
North: Fourth round: RGS Newcastle O 
GEGS Waterfield 15 South West: Fourth 
round: Colston's 48 St Brendari's VI Form 
Coll 0 Daily Mail Under-15 Cup: First 
round: Manshead US 10 Soithul 24, John 
Cleveland Coll 12 Northampion Sch lor 
Boys 14, Warmich 12 Lancaster Boys 7, 
RGS Wordester 19 King Edward VI, Aston 
14; Madssone GS 10 John Fisher 29: St 
Ignatus 32 Saltron Walden 12 RGS 
Guildhord SR Ponsmouth GS 5; Kingsbridge 
Comm 15 Newquay Tietherras 10, Forest 
Sch 31 Sir William Bordase 5, Crop GS 42 
Windoor Boys 0: Penair 45 Phymodin Coll 5: 
Wathord GS 0 St Penair 42 Whitight 31 
Bishop's Stortlord HS 8, Mill Hill 5 Colles 
22; Lichtfield Firany 9 Numery Wood 19. 
SMOOKER

SNOOKER

BINGEN: German Open: Last 16: A Crago (Matte) bt Q Harm (Aus) 5-3. R O'Sultiven (Ego) bt J Waltana (Thai) 52: J Burnett (Scot) bt G Wiskinson (Eng) 5-4. J Higgins (Scot) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-2.

WEIGHTLIFTING

CHANG MAI, Thailand: World champion-ships (overall results) Men: 70kg: 1, 2 Vanev (Bul) 355kg, 2, 2 han Xugang (China) 352 5; 3, Wan Jianhu (China) 3400 Women: 54kg: 1, Meng Xlanjuan (China) 255kg, 2, Song Hu Pi (N kor) 195, 3, 8 Desseng (Thu) 195 58kg; 1, Palmawei (Indo) 212 5kg; 2, 5 Nhassarapom (Thoi) 210, 3, Naw Ju Ni (Burma) 207 5

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13/2 .....2-0 ...... 14/1 7/1,....2-1 ......12/1 12/1,.....3-0 ......40/1 14/1 ...... 3-1 ...... 40/1 33/1 ....., 3-2 ...... 40/1 11/2......0-0......11/2 ...5/1 ....18/1

DOUBLE RESULT DRAW....

H/TIME F/TIME JUVENTUS., JUVENTUS 7/4 JUVENTUS., DRAW 14/1 JUVENTUS., MANLUTD. 33/1 DRAW...... DRAW ... MAN. UTD. 15/2 MAN. UTD.. JUVENTUS 25/1 MANLUTD.. DRAW 14/1 MAN. UTD., MAN. UTD. 6/1

**9/4 DRAW** 

8/1...SCHOLES (M) 8/1...ZIDANE (J) 14/1 ... PECCHIA (J) 16/1....GIGGS (M) 20/1....DI LIVIO (J) 11/2....NO GOALSCORER Other players on request. Own goals do not count LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HEI TV TEXT - Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603

5/1....INZAGHi (J)

11/2....FONSECA (J)

7/1...SHERINGHAM (M

11/2....COLE (M)

BOWLS: Scotush Masters (in Coatbridge)

# Sadly, McEnroe, it is sport no longer

o, really, I am right, am I not? It really is the most perfect of all sports pleasures. It is the moment when the script goes wrong. When the script is torn up and dirown away, and sport goes spiralling off into the wild new wander.

Moments when you really do not believe what is taking place before your eyes. Mo-ments in which the balance of power in sport is changed forever. Moments of fluke. moments of skill, of individual inspiration and corporate de-mentia, moments of fear and trembling, moments of

The sporting round is a pretty predictable business, but there is a difference between predictability and certainty. I do not know the result. That is the secret of sport, the reason it retains so powerful a grip on the world's imagination.

Everyone knows that Manchester United will win the league again. But what if they don't? What if? Those are the two most potent words in the entire lexicon of sport.

last weekend. The feeling that the England team was discovering itself, that English rugby was reinventing itself, that history was being made, as we

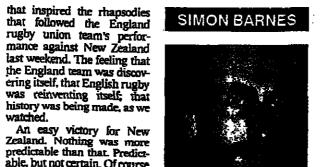
An easy victory for New Zealand. Nothing was more predictable than that Predictable, but not certain. Of course New Zealand were going to win - but what if they didn't? What if?

rugby union team's perfor-

mance against New Zealand

It is important to separate the "what-if" factor from the underdog victory. These are overlapping phenomena. India's victory in the cricket World Cup in 1983 was a wonderful underdog win, and also a perfect "what-if" mo-ment. Sri Lanka's win in the last World Cup owed nothing to underdoggery. But it was another perfect "what-if".

The victory of Cameroon over the then World Cup holders, Argentina, in 1990 falls into both categories. The emergence of the Dutch total football side of the 1970s was about overdoggery, but it was



Midweek View

also pure "what-if". Both events had the same tingle, as plain fact and perfect incredulity fought for mastery.

Few things were more predictable in sport than Biorn Borg's hegemony over Wimbledon. But extraordinary serial champions such as Borg transcend their own predict-ability. As we watched him, we participated in the construc-Surely he can't win for the fifth time. What if he did? What if? Treading hard on his heels, another legend, one who was to mix predictable victory with unpredictable behaviour. John McEnroe, whose style ranged from heavenly perfec-tion to the deepest pits of the world, was another who pos-

sessed the "what-if" factor in overplus. Odd, then, to find him strutting his middle-aged stuff in a seniors tournament at the Albert Hail last weekend, even as England were what-iffing their heroics at Twickenham. McEnroe had yet another rematch with Borg, and beat

He also managed to have a few rows with officials, and explained afterwards that he was obliged by his contract to throw a certain number of tantrums. The exact placement of tongue vis-a-vis check was not revealed. To say that it was all too

predictable is not so much

Henri Leconte in the final.

beside the point as to miss it by about 500 miles. The seniors tour is supposed to be predictable. It is not supposed to be The seniors tour is a pleasant enough exercise in nostal-gia. That is true for golf as well as tennis. Of course the players are trying but, of course, victory does not seriously matter one way or the other.

The purpose of any seniors tour is entertainment. It is entertainment dressed up in sporting garment, rather like professional wrestling. There is more real sporting passion in a single episode of Gladiators than there is in a year on the seniors tour.

That is not to demean the seniors tour. It is entertainment, and sometimes it is good entertainment. The absence of seriousness, of blood and guts, makes for a relaxing evening, with a fair number of behindthe-back shots and throughthe-legs retrievals.

When you go to a seniors event, you will have a nice time. But you will also be entering a zone in which the "what-it" factor cannot survive. The basic currency of sport is unpredictability and its golden sovereigns are the pure moments of "what-if". You think the seniors tour is about sport? You cannot be

### TELEVISION CHOICE

# Leopards in the dark

Wildlife Specials: Leopard BBC1, 8.00pm

David Attenborough observes that the leopard is the least known of the African big cats. This is because they are most active at night, which has made their movements difficult to follow. Even the most resourceful wildlife film-makers have had to admit defeat. But now the technology is there and Owen Newman and Amanda Barrett have made telling use of it. By using a special camera, and infra-red lights, they were able to film leopards in total darkness. They followed two leopards over three years and the result is one of the fullest accounts yet of the animal's nocturnal activities. The film reveals how leopards use darkness to hide their reveals how leopards use darkness to hide their movements as they inch towards their victims. Sometimes, however, leopards let their approach be heard, throwing prey into a panic that makes them easy to ambush.

Modern Times: Guinnessty BBC2, 9.00pm

Guinnessty/dynasty may be a good pun but, as Philippa Walker's film reveals, the connection between the Guinness family and the company its between the Guinness family and the company its forbear founded in the 18th century is becoming increasingly remote. So much so that there is only one Guinness still on the payroll, in the relative obscurity of the personnel department of the Runcom office. But whether together or separately family and company have had colourful, not to say standalous, histories and Walker does them full justice. Among her contributors are Maureen Guinness, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, at 90 the doyenne of the family and a long-standing friend of the Queen Mother. We hear, too, from Jonathan Guinness, who earned notoriety as chairman of the right-wing Monday Club and Ernest Saunders, whose take-over dealings led to the shame of a prison sentence. the shame of a prison sentence.

Secret Lives: Lester Piggott Channel 4, 9,00pm

The subjects of this series are usually dead, which means that their dark corners can be safely explored without fear of libel. But although Lester Piggott is very much alive, there has been no holding back. This is a far from flattering portrait.

Big cat napping (BBCL 8.00pm)

presenting him as ruthless and selfish, obsessed presenting him as ruthless and selfish, obsessed with money, mean, contemptuous of authority and a womaniser. And there is the little matter of the prison sentence for tax evasion. But none of this, even to those of us with little interest in racing, is new. It is not so much a secret life revealed, as a very public one regurgitated. At the same time proper tribute is paid to Piggott's exceptional achievements on the racecourse. Willie Carson, a rival jockey who has little time for Piggott as a person, describes his 1977 Derby triumph as mouthwatering".

The X Files BBC1, 10.15pm

The Garden: Spring
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

There is consternation in tonight's episode when Gillian Anderson's agent Scully discovers she has inoperable cancer. Surely the show is not about to lose its joint lead? The prognosis is certainly bleak.
"If the cancer pushes into my brain", announces
Scully, "there's statistically a zero chance of
survival". But it turns out that Scully is only one of a group of women with similar symptoms. It is the cue for a typical X Files plot, notable for its dark complexity and for setting the words "government" and "conspiracy" in close proximity. Not for the first time, the FBI agents find themselves investigating the actions not of some threat to the total but the contable of the first time. state but the state itself. Meanwhile, Scully lies desperately ill in a hospital bed, leaving you to guess who can extricate her. Peter Waymark

This programme is about as much of spring as we

are likely to get in December so let us be thankful for the start of a four-part series on the seasons as they affect our gardens. One could be frosty and suggest that the sort of audience that is available to hear programmes at this time of day, mainly the

retired, might also be most likely to want Daily Service on long wave at the same time, but who would a scheduler be? Spring is a time when gardens rear up to attack the complacent by thrusting grass, weeds and hedges upwards and

outwards at a tremendous rate. But spring has

connotations to do with renewal and optimism,

which is what makes it such a welcome time of the

WORLD SERVICE

6.00ans Newsday 6.30 Europa Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: The Grass is Singing 7.30 Meridian Live 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Westway 8.30 Everywomen 9.00 News; News in Garman (848 only) 9.06 World Business Report 8.15 The Farming World 9.30 Science File 9.46 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 One Planet 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Sports International 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Soundbyte 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Cutlook 2.30 Meganix 3.00 News; News in German (648 only) 3.05 Sports Poundup 3.15 Performance 3.30 Everywomen 4.00 News 4.15 From Our Own Correspondent 4.30 The World Today; News in German (648 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 6.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 The Works; News in German (648 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outbook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack X-Press 8.00 Newsdour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 On Screen 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The

9 15 Britain Today 9 30 On Screen 10.00 No

xok 11.30 Multimack X-P

waday 5.30 Europe Today

### RADIO CHOICE

John Mortimer Presents Sensational British Trials: The Case of the Dandelion Killer

Radio 2, 9.30pm This may not be at the cutting edge of innovative radio but if there is one thing better than a good crime story it is a good crime story climaxed with a juicy trial. Mortimer, with his background in chambers, seems especially to relish introducing this tale of Herbert Rowe Armstrong, a solicitor accused of the slow poisoning of his wife. The prosecution painted Armstrong as a man who cold-bloodedly set out to punish anyone who did him down, whether in reality or in Armstrong's magination. But the longer the trial went on the less black and white the case became and the outcome was a jury verdict almost as sensational

RADIO 1

6.30mm Kevin Greening and Zo6 Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00mm Mark Raddliffe 4.00 Dave Peurce 6.15 Newsbeet 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Trade Update 8.40 John Peel. Includes a session by Justin Berkovi 10.36 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00em Cive Warren 4.69 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.09am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Nick Banaclough 8.00 Folk on 2 with .5m ! Invel 9.00 Place Colleg 9.30 .Inhra Montimer Presen Sensational British Trale: The Case of the Damdellon Killer. See Choice 10.00 Auntie's Family Album 10.30 Flicherd Allinson 12.05mm Stave Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00mm The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Middley with Meir 2,00pm Ruscos on Five 4.00 Nationwick with Julian Wortchar 7.00 News Extra with David McNel Football Night Includes Juventus v Manchester United Newcastle v Dynamo Kev in the European Cup Champions' League. 10.00 Lizisjohn 11.60 News Extra 12.00 After Hoors 2.00em Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Ctark 7.06 Chris Evens 10.00 (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Grahem Dene 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Home 4.00 Russ 'n' John 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Caimin Jones 10.00 Merk Forriest 2.00mm Richard Porter

8,30mm Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen 9,00 Scott Chisholm 12,00 Lonaine Kelly 2,00mm Tommy Boyd 4,00 Peter Deeley 7,90 Anna Rasburn 9,00 James Whale 1,00mm Izn Collins

CLASSIC FM 6.00mm Nick Bailey, Including the Morning Merch and Breekfast Beroque 9.00 Herry Kelly. Michael Berry prepares rich fish pie and Record of the Week teatures the best of the new releases 1.00pm Listener Request Hou with Jane Jones 2.00 Concerto. Laio (Cello Concerto in D minor) 3.00. Jamie Crick 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning 8.00 Evening Concert. Beriloz (Overture, Les France-Luges); Liszt (Plano Concerto No 1 in E list); Berthoven (String Quartet No 3 in C); Brahms (Symphony No 3) 10.00 Michael Merchi, Includes at 11.35 Noctume 2.00mm Concerto (f) 3.00 Michael Merch Criffiths

From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Bittain Today 1.00
Newedesk 1.30 Omnibus 2.00 Newaday 2.30 Meridian Books
3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup
3.30 Journey to the Centre of the Atom 3.45 Children in
Corversation 4.00 Newadask 4.30 Europe Today 5.00
Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

6.00em On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, includes Mozart (Sonsta in D); Kodely (Denoes of Gelanta); Grieg (Ave Meris Stella); Telemann (Paris Quertet No 1 in D); Bigar (Introduction and Allegro); Tchellovsty (Suite No 4 in G, Mozartina)

9.00 Morning Codition, with Peter Hobdey, Bach (Brandenburg Concesto No 2 in F); Schumenn (Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor); Schubert (Gesänge des Hariners); Liazt (Prometheus)

10.00 Musical Escounters, Includes Strauss (Vienna Festival Ferniare); Schubert (Overture in the Italian Style); Glazzorov (Violin Concerto); John Ward (My Breast I'll Set Upon a Silver Stream); Finzi (Dies Natalis); Schumann (Papiliors); Grieg (Violin Sonata in C minor, excepts); Beethoven (Wellington's Victory)

12.00 Competer of the Weelc Geeftr

1.96par The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, Live from the Adrian Bouth Hell, Birmingham, John Bingham, piano. Beethoven (Variations in F); Prolectiev (Plano Sonata No 8)

2.00 Mildweek Cholos, with Susan Sharpe

(Piano Sonata No.8)

2.00 Midwaek Choice, with Susan Sharpe
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from By Cathedral
5.00 In Tome, with Seen Rafferty
6.00 Rush Hear Concert Voices at the Wiganore
Hallein Burnside presents vocal recitals. Nancy
Argerta, soprano, Eugene Asti, plano, includes
Haydn (Inree English Caraonets); Mendelssohn
(Pagentled; Nachlass; Gruse; Auf Flügeln des
Gesanges; Pfühlingsglaube; Nachstled;
Wanderlied); Brahms (Ständchen; De Unten im
Tale, Des Middchen Spricht; Es Steht ein Lind;

Och Moder, Ich Weil en Ding Han); Wolf (Mignons 1-3); Geoffrey Bush (Three Elizabethen Songe)
7.00 Cockhills. Lew Stone and his Band (3/8) (f)
7.30 Performance on 3. A concort given last February at the Festival Hail, London, by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Michael Schonwandt. Sibelius (Suite Karelia); Diana Burrell (Symphonies of Flocks; Herds and Shoels, BBC commission: premiers); Nielsen (Symphony No 4, restinguishable)
9.20 Postscript: Young Screenwriters. Christopher Cook take to Kevin Smith, the writer and director of Clarks, Mail Pats and Chesing Amy (2/4)
9.45 Goetr at 85. A selection from Alexander Goetri's The Death of Misses
10.00 Ensemble. The second of two recitals by Janet Hilton, clarinet, and Ronan O'Hora, piano.

10.00 Ensemble. The second of two recitals by Janet Hilton, clarinet, and Ronar O'Hora, piano. Includes Mendelesohn (Andante and Rondo capricoloso); Weber (Grand duo concertant); Mendelesohm (Songs without Words: In E. in A fast, in C. in C.; in A minor, in A)

10.45 Might Waves. Humphrey Carpenter discusses Francesca Zambello's new production of Benjamin Britten's Paul Buryen at the Royal Opera. Plus lirst-night news from Stratford, where Philip Vosa stars in The Merchant of Varice

11.30 Composer of the Week: Cole Porter (f)

12.30 cm Jazz Notes, with Richard Niles. The first part of a concert featuring vocafist. Dermis Rowland and the BBC Big Bend at Ronnie Scott's in Birmingham

Simingham 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macisod

### RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Bristing
6.10 Farming Today 6,25 Prayer for the Day 6,30
Today 8,40 Yesterday in Parlament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9,05 Mildweek, with the Times columnist
Libby Purves and guests
10.00 (LW) News; The Gardent Spring. See Choice
10.00 (LW) News; Deliy Service
10.15 (LW) On this Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Wester's Hour, Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Gardeness' Queedion Tiese (r)
12.00 News; You and Yeurs, with John Welte
12.25pra Bellylenest. The cornedy drama series by
Christopher Fitz-Simon (274) 12.35 Weather
1.90 The Wester of 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Who Singst the Herry, Under Singe, by
Melissa Murray. The story of Dr Pauline Cutting,
an volunteer suggeon who worked with the
casualties of the way in Lebanost in the 1980s (2/5)
2.45 Tressure! Intends, with Michael Rusen. Helen
Cresswell and Diana Wynne-Jones join a voyage
through lardastic fiction
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehen
4.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehen
4.05 Keislideacape, Paul Gambacchi
reviews Tomorous News Dies in see thriller,
Persons Uniforman

A45 Short Stery: Frezze Words, by Bizabeth
Suchan. Read by Mark Borner
S.00 PM 5.59 Shipping Freezet 5.55 Weather
6.06 Str O'Clock News 6.30 Wildbrain. Lionel
Kelleway presents the first semi-finel of the natural

history quiz (t)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 News 1.05 The Archers

8.05 A Night with — Lesley Garrett. The singer recalls some of her experiences of right (5/6)

8.05 A Night with — Lesley Garrett. The singer recalls some of her experiences of right (5/6)

8.05 Glants' Shoulders. The Times columnist Melvyn Bragg talks to Professor Sir John Meung Thomas about the achievements of the chemist Michael Faradey (4/6)

9.00 Costing the Earth, An investigation into the stresses and strains of fiving in a modern city (4/9)

9.00 Costing the Earth, An investigation into the stresses and strains of fiving in a modern city (4/9)

9.00 Costing the Earth, An investigation into the stresses and strains of fiving in a modern city (4/9)

9.00 Costing the Earth, An investigation into the stresses and strains of biving in a modern city (4/9)

9.00 Costing the Earth, An investigation into the stresses and strains of biving in a modern city (4/9)

9.00 Costing the Earth, An investigation into the stresses and strains of biving in a modern city (4/9)

10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hitton

10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hitton

10.00 The (Almost) Accidental Advantures of Bell and Todd. John Eggleston's strength (1/6)

11.15 TV Dimmers, A derity comic tale by Keith Lawes, With Timothy West, Maggle Steed, Jonathan Cov and Harry Capehom (1/6)

11.30 (I-M) Todey in Partisament

12.45 Shioping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FRECHENCY GUIDE RADIO 1, FM 97.5-98.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-80.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198: MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55em). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRIGIN RADIO. FM 105.6; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio licitage compiled by Peter Dear, len Hughes, Rosembry Smith, Susan Thomson, James Laborated Live Radio Religion.

# United forward breaks his silence to talk to Neil Harman

# Cole makes striking impression

ndy Cole hadn't talked like this for three years, the man who did not see the need to share his opinions with the world. This was football's ultimate paradox, an introvert in the role where emotions run riot. Now, he is completely at ease with himself and the moment has come to open up.

A striker has always required an acute sense of timing. Cole steps out in the Stadio Delle Alpi tonight seeking to lead Manchester United to a sixth straight victory in the European Cup Champions League in such beguiling form that he can smile at those who said United would repent at leisure the haste at his signing.

For many who would not be convinced, even if he became the Footballer of the Year, Cole will never be the quintessential United Red. Even though his record stands critical comparison with the famous No 9s in United's past - he reached 48 goals in 87 appearances, at Anfield on Saturday - and even though Alex Ferguson does not regret a penny of his E7 million investment and Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, fears Cole above all others tonight, the doubting voices remain the most strident. Cole has learnt better than any striker that he is only

as good as his next goal. The newspaper on top of the pile in front of him reads: Cole-lath" — a reflection on his display at Anfield, which took this season's collection in the FA Carling Premiership to 15. Not so long ago, after he had broken both of his legs. they were saying that the ductors must have out them back on the wrong way, so inent was he. He recites that story without a hint of anger. for Cole does not believe in prostrating himself on the

PAPAUMU



Cole, quiet for so long, reflects on his troubles, his critics and his thrilling revival at Manchester United

was adamant that I did not want to talk. I was being coated so much, all the time, but I sat down and said to myself on Sunday that I have worked hard, why shouldn't I be proud of what I've done?"

The change in Cole since January 1995 has had to be witnessed to be believed. "I am actually play the game."

a lot wiser. It's not all about getting behind defenders or running off their shoulders, it's about being a player. It feels so good to know that I can

WORD-WATCHING

attar of press acclaim. "It is time to say something," he reflected. "For a long time, I

to the family Cornaceae, native to New Zealand, and distinguishe by thick, ovate leaves with shiny upper surfaces. The Maori name. ROESTI (a) A Swiss style of fried potatoes (variously taken as singular and plural). "The most typical dish of Zurich is something known as genhnetzelles. It comes served with noodles or roesti."

(a) A small evergreen tree or shrub. Griselinia littoralis, belonging

ROBERGINE

(c) A member of a small religious sect founded by John Rogers (16481721) in Connecticut, opposed to some of the formal practices of
churches and participation in utilitary service. "A contagious
disorder is now raging among the sect known by the name of
Rogercus Quakers in Grotun."

UKHKANA

(a) An organisation of political police set up in 1881 in tearist Russia after the assassination of Alexander II to maintain the security of the paste and suppress revolutionary activities. In Russian, literally, "guarding, protection", "The exact number, local distribution, and cost of the okhrana are known to no single official." OKHRANA

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE L... Rxg3+!: 2, Kxg3 Rg7+; 3, Kh2 Qf4+ and mate follows.

scored with such blissful certainty - 54 goals in 70 league games — that, when he artived at Old Trafford, the earth was expected to turn on its axis, only for the hero of one club to find himself thrust into a team where another player, Eric Cantona, was already the star. The insinuations that have trailed Cole from his

At Newcastle United, he

formative years at Arsenal continued. Cantona didn't rate this new colleague — the body language gave the game away

yet not a single word will Cole have said against his erstwhile colleague.

"I have had to put up with rumours all my career," Cole said. People are going to think and say what they want about Eric and I can't stop them, but we never had a single cross word and our

partnership was pretty suc-

cessful. I have got two champ-ionship medals and an FA Cup-winner's medal to show "It was hard for me at first. I was scoring virtually every week for Newcastle, but I came to an entirely different club with a different system. I knew it would be hard, I never dodged that and I wanted

desperately to play for Manchester United. I didn't

realise how much was expected of me, how much being a United player means and how much it can take out of you. "I was an easy target because of the club I had

joined. I might have got away with it somewhere else. I knew I had to persevere and I did: I have been through bad times. but I never let my head drop. The flak I got was unbelieve able. I was so low at times, I didn't know whether I was coming or going, but I was lucky to have good people who

'I worked hard, why shouldn't I be proud of what I've done?

so good - but I would love to know why certain people in the media dislike me so much. It's not as if I have been a bad stood why I've taken so much

and say that it didn't hurt.

player. I have never understick and I'm not going to lie

"A lot of people have said I

believed in me. I was not one

didn't help myself with my attitude. Fair enough, but I am

# He has not figured in any of Glenn Hoddle's World Cup who would run to the press when things were going well and I didn't want help from them when the times weren't

a proud person. I have knuck-Italian job. page 44 SPORTED

led down and I'm getting my

rewards. I came here to learn

my trade and now I feel

confidence in myself. I go out

there every game thinking,

'you can score today', whereas

before it was, 'if you don't take

your first chance, they li be on

your back. If I miss the first

chance now. I know I'll get a

second. It's about trusting my

instincts. I'm not in this to

score pretty goals because that

might be expected of a United

player. But I do want to score

proper striker's goals - that's

penalty."

France as "slim".

why I've never taken a

the man of the moment

with a championship

and European Cup beck-oning United, the World

Cup enticing England.

squads and so rates his

chances of making the trip to

"I didn't make it when I was

sde and it's the club that comes first," he said. "What this team can achieve

scoring all those goals for

could be unreal. I'm only 26; I

feel like I haven't reached my

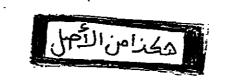
peak yet, maybe that will come

at 28. The way I feel, I can score goals against the best —

that's the great thing."

Proper or not, Cole is





is venture

ahead

Aller Smith

F-115

- - - - - -

Kin (535527) 2.15 News (3356530) 2.20

1.45 Weather (7357169) 1.50 BBC News 24

> VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme isting are Video PlusCode "numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+" handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ ("), Pluscode (") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gernstar Development Ltd.

Constantly surprising, comfortingly familiar shoes. But making Graham a taxidriving psychopath with a morbid fear of old people? That was

Graham hadn't always been a trade-mark tinted sunglasses are murderer. "I was a taxi-driver for 17 years, until the traffic got to me - then I became a hit man," he explained a couple of weeks ago. But in Hamilton's black cornedy, in style somewhere between Alan Plater and Quentin Tarantino, murdering was definitely what he did best. With Reid's help and mannerisms - the shrug, the smile - "Mind if we stop for some diesel on the way?" became one of the most menacing lines in television drama.

Last night, after a quiet couple of episodes, he was back at his murderous best, disposing of Hainsey, the unliked sidekick whose ill-timed impressions were always likely to get him into trouble. From the moment Jezzard (Kevin McNally), his evil and manipulative gangland boss, told Graham he did a very good one of him "as a really, really old man" his fate was sealed. Hainsey was soon doing an impression of Elvis — as he is now."

But as the final episode lurched reluctantly to an end, Graham finally got to know what it's like to feel real fear. Jezzard caught up with William (James Fleet) and Susan (Susan Wooldridge) as they visited the dying Aunt Doreen (Annette Crosbie). now in a hospice. He sent Graham in to get them. "But there'll be a lot of old people in there." Indeed there were, old people who eventually cornered him in the patient's lounge. "Get back -- or else," he shouted, waving a gun at the advancing ranks. "Or else?." protested Aunt Doreen: "This is a hospice, you moron." Delicious.

Just slightly unfortunately, this

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

was not the end. Jezzard would not die (despite having been blown up and half-drowned) and the episode would not end. On and on it went. ignoring all sort of perfectly feasi-ble opportunities for "The End". Even when all the baddies were finally dead, it still wouldn't. Only when we were certain that Susan and Martin (David Troughton) might live happily ever after, that William and Gilda (Camilla Powbuilders were happily back on site. did the final credits roll. Underworld was flawed and overlong. But it was also magnificently acted and one of the best recent attempts at a horribly difficult genre that I can recall. As for the splendid Reid, he's

already moved on to other things. Which is a shame because a murdering cabbie could be just what EastEnders (BBC1) needs as it builds towards the traditionally miserable Walford Christmas. At the moment I'd vote for him "stopping for diesel" with the increasingly tiresome Ian Beale in the back. Possibly accompanied by Mary, the new live-in nanny who's just agreed to work for the sort of money that will have brought tears to the eyes of middle-class parents

But alas, Reid is not back as Graham but as Frank, dispensing babes", drinks ("have one your-

er) would not and that Susan's self, sweetheart") and wisdom with not altogether customary largesse. "What your old man don't know about motor cars could be written on the back of a match-box," he told Ricky last night, completing the effect with a trademark wobble of the head and a "hah, hah, hah". Goodness, how we miss him.

> nyway, an increasingly flustered Ricky was pleased A flustered Ricky was pleased to see him, and not just because things were getting on top of him at the garage. "If I worked hard enough, I thought it would take my mind off things." "But it doesn't," sighed Frank, who's doing a surprisingly good job of providing a shoulder to cry on. All this family stuff is very moving, and Sid Owen and Patsy Palmer are still doing a terrific job as the devastated Ricky and

CHANNEL 4

9.30 Rings on Her Fingers (1942, bAv) with Henry Fonda and Gene Tiemey A romantic comedy about a pennilass clerk

11.05 The Trouble with Kids Parenting magazine (3/5) (T) (8843768) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (4126) 12.00 Sesame Street (48381) 12.30pm Light Lunch

1,30 Walt 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie (1952)

staring David Wayne. Small-town
America as seen through 50 years in the
life of the local barber. Directed by Henry

3.30 Collectors' Lot The Thimble Society, a garden which is home to a submanne

and the tartan museum (T) (923) 4.00 Filteen-to-One (T) (958) 4.30 Countdown

(T) (2642923) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Runaway kids talk about life on the streets (T)

(5038749) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (294)

magazine presented by Dominik Diamond with Patrick Moore (T) (107)

and Dan come home to find Becky and a friend drunk (r) (T) (687)

Farmharns. The pressure is beginning to build on Mick as his trail approaches. Is

Louise being totally honest with Eleanor and Ollie? (1) (1294)

director and her daughter get away from

it all at a health farm, a woman and her

daughters revisit lbics for the fifth time in

two years; and an 86-year-old hopes to fulfil an ambition of a litetime when she

visits Las Vegas and the Grand Carryon

6.30 Roseanne: One for the Road Roseanne

8.00 Brookside Jacqui has to decide if she's

going to break the bad news to the

8.30 The Real Holiday Show Gaby Roslin

introduces video diaries made by

ordinary holidaymakers. A funeral

6.00 Gamesmaster Computer games

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (904316)

7.50 innocents Gained (866126)

(7/8) (1) (3229)

who is mistaken for a millionaire by a pair

of confidence tricksters. Directed by Rouben Marrioulian (54364710)

5.55am Sesame Street (17671)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (12039)

1850391

King (T) (88774)

9.00 Something So Right (31045)

annual Chingford newsreel ever Bianca. However, what I'm really looking forward to is a big scene between Frank and that other

In a perfect world (or at least a perfect television column) Reid would have provided the commentary for Picture This: The Chingford Newsreel (BBC2). After all, the London/Essex borders are pretty much his stamping ground. But instead we had David Piggott, a man who caught a nasty case of the Bob Danvers-Walker's 40 years ago and never really recovered. He's been making an

Which one of them, do you think,

will become totally inaudible first?

It's an eccentric exercise that would have been easy to mock. But Jonathan Smith, the director, did not, presenting us instead with an affectionate portrait that acknowledged both a man with a rare obsession and the undeniably addictive nature of recent local history. I bet Mike Reid is in there

### BBC1

Tf Mike Reid finds himself.

▲ ford-upon-Ayon in the near

future, I, for one, won't be in the

slightest bit surprised Those

on a bit of a roll at the moment

He's back in EastEnders Call

right, babe?"); he's the inspiration

for Dave Angel, eco-warrior, in

The Fast Show; and best of all he's

Graham, the murdering taxi-driv-

er in Underworld. But I'm sure he

could fit the odd Touchstone or

If he ever does get the call, it will

be Andy Hamilton he has to thank

Hamilton attempted many things

with Underworld (Channel 4) -

most of them worked, a few did not

- but without doubt he wrote one

of the best parts that Reid is ever

likely to play. Making Graham a

taxi-driver was easy. Reid could whisper his way through that role

in his sleep: the chat, the gold

jewellery, the comfortable driving

Autolycus in somewhere.

treading the boards at Strat-

6.00am Business Breakfast (97861) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (92229) 9.00 Good Living Jane Asher with ideas for

9.25 Style Challenge (1202381) 9.50 Kilroy (T) (2940671) - N 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (1727836) 10.55 The Really Useful Show(T) (8719010)

11.35 Change That (3008861) 12.00 News (T) and weather (9456768) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (2733861) 12.35 Give Us A Clue (5340749)

1.00 News (T) and weather (95316) 1.30 Regional News (17575590) 1.40 The Weather Show (86313749) 1.45 Neighbours (T) (49988364)

2.10 Petrocettl With Barry Newman and Rick Nelson (r) (1011294) 3.00 Vets' School Pressure mounts on the students as Fiona Green spays a cat single-handedly (t) (7855)

3.30 Playdays (7849958) 3.50 ChuckleVision (7756294) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (3454774) 4.35 Out of Tune (2658584) 5.00 Newsround (T) (4383279) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (6365107)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (132045) 6.00 News (T) and weather (497) 6.30 Regional News (749)

7.00 Face Value Alice Beer looks at the clothes at the Tomorrow Never Dies James Bond premiere. A herbal pill which claims to get rid of beer belies and why are the tights women like to wear not what most men prefer to see them in (1) (9836)

7.30 Tomorrow's World Peter Snow reports from France on an electric car which supermarket customers drive home with their goods and then automatically return to the depot (1) (861)

Leopard: A Wildlife Special David Attenborough presents an insight into the noctumal bention. 8.45 The National Lottery Draw (T) (441126) 9.00 News (T), weather and Lottery Update

9.30 Absolutely Fabulous Edina has a cliffhanging encounter with the Almighty during a near-death experience on the slopes of trendy ski resort Val D'Isère

(1/2) (t) (T) (286010) 10.14 National Lottery Update (822923). The X Files: Memento Mori Scully is diagnosed with an inoperable brain turnour, prompting her to search for other women who have endured similar experiences (T) (422590) 11.00 Tom Jones (r) (1) (100861) WALES: 11.00 Fighting Class (2768) 11.30 Tom Jones (452949) 12.35am Film: Next of

12.05am Next of Kin (1989) Action thriller, with Patrick Swayze and Liam Neeson. A tough cop is torn between the desire for revenge and doing his duty when his younger brother is killed by a mobstar's son. Directed by John Irvin (T) (588459)

### BBC2

6.00am Maths and Computing: Designer Rides (45942) 6.30 The Information Society (63229)

7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (3315958)

7.15 Teletubbles (r) (r) (2502958) 7.40
Penelope Pitstop (r) (8962519) 8.05 tt'll
Never Work (r) (7) (6084836) 8.30 Model
Millie (r) (8544861) 8.45 The Record
(6448756) 9.10 The Fugitive (r) (1)
(1962958) 10.00 Teletubbles (74381)

1902-200 10.00 Teleducores (74361)
10.30 A Canterbury Tale (1944) with Eric
Portman and Sheila Sim. Wartime fable
about a land girl, an Army sergeant and a
Gi who meet in a small Kentish village and set out to unmask the man conducting an unusual reign of terror against local women. Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger (88872)

12.30pm Working Lunch (80855) 1.00 Noddy (h) (50514478) 1.10 The History Hour. St Andrew's; the first off-the-peg fashions (2493010) 2.10 Going, Going, Gone (64676107) 2.40 News (1) (7822126) 2.45 Westminster (1) (4818300) 3.55 News (T) (9831671)

4.00 Ready Steady Cook (590) 4.30 Through the Keyhole (2657855) 4.55 Esther: star-struck children (4594854) 5.25 Today's the Day (6457132) 5.50 Lifeline (r) (798671) 6.00 Star Treic The Next Generation (r) (T)

6.45 The O Zone (T) (108294) 7.05 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (432923) 7.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Actor Ralph Fiennes presents an investigation into the right to self-determination

(897652)

7.30 A Date with an Artist A Dorset beekseper and a saxophonist (T) (403) 8.00 Gary Rhodes Gary cooks gournet food for a hen party (T) (6126)

8.30 Home Front Fireplace ideas; and investigating the ancient art of leng shui 



Guinness dynasty doyenne (9.00pm)

Modern Times An intimate portrait of the Guinness family dynasty (T) (910039) 9.50 Breaking Point Last in series on marriage guidance (T) (444107)

10.30 Newanight (T) (307497) 11.15 Prison Weekly Dealing with inmates addicted to drugs and alcohol (801132)

11.45 Human Rights, Human Wrongs (r) (908565) 11.55 Weather (251774)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (78546) 12.30am Learning Zone: Russell Grant (6620817) 12.45 20th Century

History(6590782) 1.10 From a Different Shore (9316782) 2.00 Art and Craft of Movie Making (65481) 4.00 French Experience Rencontres Part One (65053) 5.00 Business and Training (16527)

6.00am GMTV (2881132) 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (1391229) 9.55 Regional News (1) (7064671) 10.00 The Time, the Place (78107) 10.30 This Morning (T) (97629861)

12.20pm Regional News (9455652) 12.30 News (T) and weather (5432774) 12.55 Shortland Street (5344565) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (78680126) 1.50 Quisine (91889395) 2.20 Countdown to

Christmas (45127010) 2.50 Vanessa (T) 3.20 News (1761359)

3.25 Regional News (T) (1660300) 3.30 Tots TV (2276229) 3.40 The Singing Kettle News (8235671) 3.50 The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (1743652) 4.20 Neil's Art Attack Scrapbook (T) (3372126) 4.45 The Essential Guide to

Christmas (T) (2649836) 5.10 World of Wonder The longest and largest glacler in North America (9401045)

5.40 News (T) and weather (202923) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (951120) 6.25 Regional Weather (426359) 6.30 Regional News (395) 7.00 Emmerdale (1) (4872)

7.30 Champions' League — Live! Bob Wilson presents coverage of Juventus v Manchester United or Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev (T) (22470565)

NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to late running and alteration



Steven Arnold as Ashley (9.45pm)

9.45 Coronation Street Jack's new date delivers a nasty surprise; and Ashley's new house guest vexes Maxine (T)

10.15 News at Ten (T) Lottery result and 10.45 Regional News (T) (680215)

10.55 Champions' League Highlights
Tonight's games, featuring Newcastle v
Dynamo Kiev, and Juventus v Manchester United (878300) 11.55 Tales from the Crypt: Only Sin Deep A man gatecrashes a masquerade party

hoping to avenge a broken relationship, only to find himself victimised by a masked woman (295958) 12.25am The Making of Allen Ressurrection (5136275)

12.55 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (3504985) 1.25 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (r)

1.55 Customs Classified (r) (3338169) 2.40 Champions' League (745459)

4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (79150508) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (95184)

### CENTRAL

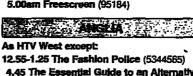
As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (5344565) 4.45 The Essential Guide to an Alternative Christmas (2649836)

6.25 Central News (501869) 6.55-7.00 Lifeline (917039) 11.55 Film: The Ordeal of Bill Carney

As HTV West except: 12.55 Home and Away (7453855) 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (24981328)

1.50-2.20 Fashion Polica (91889395) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9401045) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (565) 6.30-7.00 Put it to the Test (395) 11.55 Champions' League Highlights

5.00am Freescreen (95184)



4.45 The Essential Guide to an Alternative Christmas (2649836) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (417045) 11.55 Crowded House Live at the Sydney

SC . Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (12039) 9.00 Something So Right (31045)

11.05 The Trouble with Kids (8843768) 11.30 Powerhouse (4126) 12.00 Sesame Street (48381) 12.30om Ricki Lake (75923)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (50523126) 1.15 Tic Toc (50511381) 1.30 Film: They Who Dare (88774) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (923)

11.40-4.30 Under the Moon (50108942)

4:00 Fifteen-to-One (958) 4.30 Pantoland (942) 5.00 5 Pump (9235300) 5.15 Ffeil (9333774)

5,30 Countdown (294) 6.00 Newyddion (419652) 8.10 Heno (802584) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (174497)

7.25 Pfermio (432294) 8.00 Siopa (1294) 8.30 Newyddion (3229)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

9.00 Cracker (6403) 10.00 Brookside (613300) 4.20 Recollections (24028053) 10.35 Babylon 5 (867294) 11.30 Lloyds Bank Film Challenge (903010)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9401045)

1.50am in Focus (9932188) 4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (8311891) 5.20 Asian Eye (4566169)

# WESTCOUNTRY

4.45 The Essential Guide to an Alternative

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9401045) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (85300) 11.55 Jimmy Greaves Sports Arena (295958)

### MERIDIAN As HTV West except:

10.55 Meridian Business Awards (878300)

Opera House (800774)

# 9.30 Film: Rings on Her Fingers (54364710)

Lester Piggott revealed (9.00pm) 9.00 Secret Lives: Lester Piggott
The peerless former jockey's

life - warts and all (T) (6403) 10.00 Sister, My Sister (1994) with Joely Richardson, Jodhi May and Julie Walters A drama, set in provincial France during the 1930s, about the relationship between a family and their two servants who are the envy of their neighbours.

Directed by Nancy Meckler (1) (974749)

(50108942) 4.30am Springhill Drama set on a Liverpool housing esstate (2679343) 5,35 Schools: Geographical Eye (r) (T)

11.40 Under the Moon Sports magazine

### CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz, sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (4596519)

7.30 Milkshakel (7703478) 7.35 Kablam! (9388671) 8.00 Havakazoo (r) (7108805) 8.30 WideWorld The realities of daily life in the Victorian countryside (9/10) (8558346) 9.00 Espresso (7250671) 10.00 Exclusive (4615010) 10.30 Close Encounters. The

raccoon (r) (T) (3609890) 11.00 Leeza (3607132) 11.50 Double Espresso (90263403) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (4958382) 12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (1723768)

1.00 5 News Update (88138958) 1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (4472590) 2.00 5's Company 3.30 Tender Comrade (1943, b/w) starring

Ginger Rogers, Robert Ryan and Ruth Hussey. A drama about a group of Gl wives who sat up house together in order to give each other support while their husbands are fighting in the Second World War Directed by Edward Dmytryk (9703584)

5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (56060565)

6.30 Family Affairs Mel is impressed when she meets Roy's famous triend, includes a guest appearance by the nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow (T) (4960497) 7.00 Exclusive A James Bond special

7.30 Animal Outposts The wildlife on the bleak and barren island of Hormuz, off the south coast of Iran (T) (4959381) 8.00 Instant Gardens William Van Hane

(5410958)



9.00 Peggy Sue Got Married (1986) something, about to divorce her husband, who has a heart attack and wakes up to find herself back in her Coppola (32745768) 10.55 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and

4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (T) (5041633)

5,30 100 Per Cent (r) (7215508)

### • For further listings see Saturday's Vision

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (128030) 9.00 Hotel (67132) 10.00 Another World (48010) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (39774) 12.00 Oprah Werlicy (16234) 1.00pm Gersido (25942) 3.00 Jenny Jones (32768) 4.00 Oprah Werling (17303) 5.00 Star Trek Voyager (3891) 6.00 Dream Team (2671) 6.30 Married with Children (3923) 7.00 The Simpsons (7010) 7.30 Real TV (9107) 8.00 1997 Balboard Music Awards (68671) 10.00 Boza Unconfered (54478) 11.00 Star Trek Voyager (54039) 12.00 Lets Show with Dayd Lonerman (40362) 1.00mm in the Heart of the North (42507) 2.00 Long Pay (6293982) Lonerman (40362) 1.00mm in the Hear of the Night (32507) 2.00 Long Play (6299362) SKY BOX OFFICE

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) St. 1 BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) Courage Under Fire (1996) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 58) Do: The Highly Ducks (1996) Sky BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 58) Dead Presidents (1996) SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1 6.00am Robin and the Seven Hoods (1964) (85720) 8.00 Kirs Me Goodhya (1962) (55065497) 9.00 Hercules (1963) (76903942) 11.30 Robin and the Seven

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To wow any firm telephone 0990 800888 Each lilm cost: £2,39 per viewing

76:9039421 11.30 Robin and the Seven Hoods (1964) (89497) 1.30pts Planic at Hanging Rock (1973) (34558) 2.30 Budy (1993) (665213) 5.20 Hercules (1963) (27714861) 7.05 Hisppet Treasure Island (1996) (56528671) 9.00 in the Bleak Richarleter (1996) (5981861) 70.45 Poleon by It. Lity (1985) (68823861) 12.30em Right Eyes Trace (1993) (176213) 2.70 Terminal Voyage (1996) (770327) 3.45 Perminal Voyage (1976) SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2 6.00am Welle Up and Dream (1946) (89070) 2.00 The Amazing Caphilo Namo (1978) 11926; 10.00 The Man from Colorado (1948) (32145) 12.00 in the Army Now (1994) (53858) 1.50pm A Tree Grove in Brooking (1945) (19210687) 4.00 The Amazing Caphilo Nemo (1978) (6955) 6.00 The English-

men Who Went Up a Hill, But Casse Down a Mountain (1895) (79923) 8.00 in the Army Now (1994) (40565) 10.00 Copyest (1995) (59750841) 12.05am Black Scorpton (1995) (377430) 1.40 Lard of Basicons (1995) (603053) 3.40 Houguises (1995) (623546) 3.15 The Old Curiosity Shop (1994) (1450343) SKY MOVIES GOLD. 4.00pm Fiddler on the Roof (1971) (95936294) 6.65 The Dancing Masters (1943) (39489497) 8.06 A. Fiethal of Dollars (1954) (4162039) 10.00 Teigalis Sunrise (1968) (6430749) 11.55 Cherry 2000 (1967) (8005841 1.35am Defense-less (1991) (1482275) 3.20 Joison Singa Again (1949) (5021324) 5.00 Close

TNT 9.00pm Spymaker The Secret Life of lea Fleming (1881) [56842213] 11.00 Teleion (1877) [32768229] 1.00am The Outrage (1964) [38329492] 2.45 Spy-maker. The Secret Life of len Fleming (1991) [24005940] 5.00 Close

# SKY SPORTS 1

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00em Sports Centre (83565) 7.30 Wresting (15774) 8.30 Sports Centre (70355)
9.00 Racmp Naus (94107) 9.30 Aerobics
(30467) 10.00 Neitsell (91564) 11.00 Pool
(71729) 12.00 Aerobics (36911) 12.30par
(ce Hockey (174279) 3.00 The Footbellers'
Footbell Show (83652) 4.00 Testan Edda
(7769) 4.30 Sanvisel of the Fisics (6552)
5.00 Wresting (1855) 6.00 Sports Centre
(7369) 6.30 Fatbol Murclaia (8497) 7.00
Golf. Times Mees Person Challange
(8229) 8.00 NHL (93555) 10.00 Sports
Centre (55305) 10.30 Futbol Murclais
(84720) 11.00 Pool (92213) 12.00 Sports
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Centre (55307) Rebel Sports (84053) 3.00
Sports Centre (86279) 3.30 Closs
Sport Centre (86279) 3.30 Closs

### SKY SPORTS 2

7.00mm Aerobics (8339774) 7.30 Sports Caras (845381) 8.00 Racing News (5689836) 8.30 Fish TV (3891880) 9.30 World Motor Sport (3561590) 12.30pm Golf Dara (3483942) 3.30 NH. (979584) 5.30 V-Max (9334720) 6.00 Rebel Sports (7753519) 7.00 Sports Cartie (222277) 7.30 Sports Action (8251497) 8.00 Golf Dara (8221959) 11.00 Circles: New Zealand V South Amoz — Live (9725749) 2.30mm. Sports Centre (5135833) 3.00 Circles: New Zealand V South Amoz — Live Live (19725749) 2.30mm. Sports Centre (5135833) 3.00 Circles: New Zealand V South Amoz — Live (19725749) 2.30mm.

SKY SPORTS 3

t Explosion (82328) 1 Bitting (69861) **12.30cm** Close

7,00mm Bullseye (4593655) 7,35 Neighbours (4379720) 8,00 Crossroads (2524229) 8,25 EastEnders (6091294) 8,00 The BB (6290652) 9,30 Howards: Way The BBI (6290652) 8.30 Howards' Way (9500294) 10.00 Bless 'This House (1678655) 10.30 The Sulfware (629635) 11.00 Boon (8225942) 12.00 Crossroads (46450887) 12.26 Neighbours (4645374) 12.55 EastEnders (2211584) 1.30 H-De-H (4579403) 2.10 Yes, Minister (6849045) 2.50 Last of the Summer Wine (954286) 3.30 The BBI (3052300) 4.00 Juliet Bravo (98901467) 5.05 EastEnders (1439897)

GRANADA PLUS 6.00em The Box (8283010) 7.00 Corona-tion St (6617565) 7.30 Families (6829300) 8.00 Bland Date (6323519) 9.00 Wahin Thisse Walls (4298500) 10.00 Donahus (6625564) 11.00 Hert to Hart (6605720) 12.00 Coronation St (8058942) 12.30pm

7,30em Showjumping (37942) 8,30 UEFA Cup (27951) 10,30 Welghilding: World Champonships — Live (95478) 12,30 Wheeles Magazine (23831) 1,00 Freestyle Sking (73132) 1,30 Freentle Magazine (2882) 2,00 Shooker: German Open—Live (92952) 4,00 Morios Magazine (77855) 5,00 Welghtilding: World Champtonships (9323) 6,000 UEFA Cup (37300) 7,00 Shooker: German Open—Live

EUROSPORT

Vice (2611985) 2.00 Shopping (5408275)

12.00pm Wresting (81671132) 1.00 Fish TV (8158452) 2.00 Superbouts (67836955) 3.00 Clympic Series (5203618) 3.30 ice Slotting (63128229) 4.30 Chirese Zhuhat Great Race (83369942) 5.30 Pool (24679763) 6.30 Chistone Powerbouts (28330300) 7.00 Fish TV (5693236) 8.00 Sport USA (54252768) 8.30 Windsuring (81672961) 10.00 Sportnats (22630584) 10.30 The Golden Age of Motor Racing (83673478) 11.30 Close

2.30 The Bill (306230) 4.00 Juliet Bravo (38901497) 5.05 EastEnders (1439897) 5.40 Full House (4419891) 6.25 That's: Shawbusness (4939393) 7.00 Leat of the Surriver Witne (7774805) 7.45 Don't Wat Up (8142852) 8.20 Yes Minister (6846823) 8.60 The Bill (1992749) 9.30 Taggert the Movie (8793687) 11.05-Live at Jongleurs (4492720) 11.40 Nated Victeo (9040958) 12.15em Chancer (363734) 1.10 Mierri Unes (2819895) 2.00 Shopping (8408273)

onships (5923) e.u. (5927) 7,00 Snooker: German Open—Live (98497) 9,00 Daris (93881) 10,00 Heavy-UK GOLD

> (7476)28) 7.00 The New Corneclars (3113942) 7.30 UEFA Champions Lague (5678968) 10.00 Fitz, the US Cracket (7357671) 12.00 Close CARLTON SELECT (cable) 5.00pm Gndlock (14639297) 5.30 Hey Dad II (28631039) 8.00 Blockbusters (28621652) 6.30 Country Practice (28918132) 7.00 Get Back (68211911) 7.30 Switch On (28914316) 8.00 Rude Health (49980949) 8.30 10 Percenters (68211966) 9.00 Fields of Fire (58922403) 11.00 St Essenters (34562126) 12.00 Coffins & Maconics Movie Club (63982492) 12.30mm Tales of the Unexpected (54214508) 1.00 Close

Clint Eastwood in A Fistful of Dollars (Sky Movies Gold, 8.00pm) Jim 11.35 Sing Me a Story 12.00 Tots TV 12.30pm 2's Fun to Learn with Spot 12.45 Winner the Pooh 1.00 Sesame St 2.00 Amazing America 2.30 Commi Bears 3.00 Tale Spin 3.30 Good Troop 4.00 Timon and Pumbas 4.30 Aladdin 5.00 Gargoyles 5.30 Drinsaus 6.00 Blossom 6.30 Boy Meets Model 7.00 Johns Improvement 7.40 Families (25/28497) 1.00 On the Buses (6616836) 1.30 Please Sin (25/27788) 2.00 The Good Guys (720458) 3.00 Donahue (7358300) 4.00 Mission: Impossible (7344107) 5.00 Hawei Plvg-Q (311/2213) 6.00 Families (758774) 8.30 Connetion St d 7.00 Home Improvement der Years 8.00 FILM: Emast God

DISNEY CHANNEL Aladdin 7.30 Tex Avery 8.00 Dimosaus 8.30 Bonkers 9.00 Gummi Bears 9.30 Chip 'n' Dale 9.55 Mouse and Mole 10.00 Sesame St 11.00 Winnie the Pooh 11.15 Rosle and

CARTOON NETWORK All your fevourite cartoons broadcast from 5,00am to 9,00pm, seven days a week. NICKELODEON 6.00em Kiler Tomatoes 6.30 Asahhi Peal Monsters 7.00 Hay Arroldl 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 Doug 8.30 Neveranding Story 8.00 CBBC 10.00 Winzie's House 10.30 Babar 11.00 Maga: School Bus 11.30 Bananas in

> TROUBLE 12.00pm Swan's Crossing 12.30 Ready or Not 1.00 Madison 1.30 Californa Dreams 2.00 Saved by the Bell 2.30 Swan's Crossing 3.00 Blast 3.30 Ready or Not 4.00 Saved by the Bell 4.30 USA High 5.00 Hangtime 5.30 California Dreams 8.00 Blast 6.30 Madison 7.00 Hangtime 7.30 USA High 8 00 Cines

# USA High 8.00 Closs

FOX KIDS NETWORK 8,00am Deby 8.30 BBy the Cat 7.00 Processor 7.30 Power Rangers Zeo 8.00 Reetleborgs 8.30 Masked Roler 9.00 Magic Box 9.30 Dudley 10,00 Inspector Gadget 10.30 Pcza Cats 11.00 Sweet Valley High 12.00 Ace Ventura 12.30pm Casper 1.00 Tick 1.30 from Man 2.00 Fersastic Four 2.30 power Perset Zeo 3.00 Reetleborgs 3.30 Power Rangers Zeo 3.00 Beeleborgs 3.30 Masked Rider 4.00 Ace Ventura 4.30 Casper 5.00 Tick 5.30 X Men 6.00

8.00em Happily Ever After 6.90 Bobby's World 7.00 Sprou 7.90 Denne the Menace 8.00 Betman 8.90 Betman 9.00 Earthworm 8.00 Betman 8.30 Betman 9.00 Earthworm Jim 9.30 Rorrusid the Reindeer 9.45 Romusid the Reindeer 10.00 Oscar's Orchestra 10.30 Flach Gordon 11.00 lonogoud 11.30 Gigentor 12.00 Spirou 12.30pm Sonic 1.00 Batman 1.30 A/s Time Travellers 2.00 bringgoud 2.30 Flash Gordon 3.00 Spric 3.30 Earthworm Jim 400 Desiri to March 4 20 Berin to March

4.00 Dennis the Menace 4.30 Ba

11.00 Mague School Bus 11.30 Bananas in Pylamas 12.00 Paddinglon Base etc 12.30pm Lutle Red Tractor etc 1.00 Dr Scuss 1.30 Lutle Base Socies 2.00 Anjmal Show 2.30 CBBC 3.30 Rocko/Doug 4.00 Anjmy Beavers 4.30 Rugrats 8.00 States Siste 5.30 Kenan and Kel 8.00 Sabirna the Teerage Witch 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close

**CHALLENGE TV** 5.00pm Crass Wits 5.30 Move on Up 6.00 Family Fortunes 6.30 Catchphrase 7.15 The \$64,000 Question 8.00 Split Second AS CARDON Challenge 9.15 Winner Takes
AS 10.00 Treasure Hunt 11.15 Karaoke
Challenge 12.00 Say the Word 12.30am
Hart to Hart 1.35 The Big Valley 2.30
National Geographic Explorer 3.30 Winere I
Live 4.00 Jeur Sans, Frontiers 5.00
Screenstein 5.00 Cincer 5.00

8.00pm The A-Team (4049107) 9.00 Tour of Duty (4052871) 10.00 Red Shoe Dianes GLIBY (612-017) THUM: Stops (1967) (52)(A16) 10.45 FILM: Stops (1967) (34)(0199)) 12.35em Leste Neison's (In-balanced World — Shori (1338411) 12.45 Tour of Dury (1455053) 1.45 Red Shoe Dianes (5554995) 2.30 FILM: 978-241 (1968) (1356814) 4.20 Leste Niclson's Unibalanced World — Shori (85094508) Unibelanced World -- Snort (65094508 4.30 Family Dog (6281463) 5.00 Starsk

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## PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7,00pm Grace Under Fire (7:45) 7.30 Roseanne (5923) 8,00 Ellen (2:74) 8,30 Cytoli (8381) 8,00 Cheers (79213) 8,30 Tad Everett (98590) 11.00 Gayle's World (54958) 11.30 Eilen (83213) 12.00 Roseanne (47614) 12.30aza Nightstand Rossame (47614) 12.30am hightstand (94427) 1.00 Saxp (64053) 1.30 Tau (24630) 2.00 Gayle's World (49817) 2.30 Grane Under Fire (26324) 3.00 Frasler (84817) 3.30 Kenny Everett (42904) THE SCI-FI CHANNEL 8.00pm Sightings (3171125) 9.00 FLM: Falting Fire (1995) [3174213) 11.00 Finday the 13th (5476571) 12.00 Sightings (4336940) 1.00em The Twight Zone (9754633) 1.30 Tatles of the Unexpected (3568343) 2.00 Dark Snadows (768614) 2.30 New Alfred Hitchcock (7667121) 3.00 Finday the 13th (8466053) 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE 9.00sm The Joy of Painting 9.30 Garden Cato 10.00 Garden Porty 10.30 New Yerkee Workshop 11.00 Andy's Angling Adventures 11.30 Hometime 12.00 The Diceman 12.30pm This Old House 1.00 Yan Cen Cook 1.30 The Restoration Game 2.00 The Furnium Guys 2.30 Antiques Trail 3.00 Two's County 3.30 Home Agen

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Dicement (3056749) 4.30
Readshow (3141861) 5.00 Ancient Warmers (8376519) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (3069213)
8.00 Crawling Kingdom (9510671) 7.00
Mysterious Universe (8283655) 7.30 Desire (3142590) 8.00 Mysterious Universe (8365403) 8.30 Super Natural (9271010)
9.00 Reaf X Files (4136045) 10.00 List Murders (6362697) 10.30 Cultireal (6295107) 11.00 Fastest Car on Earth (9211749) 12.00 The Dicemen (7441665) 12.30 Bayond 2000 (904879)
NATIONAL (SECORDA DULLO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Living Sands of the Namib (8001861) 8.00 Jewolled Wings (8914381) 8.00 Great Lakos, Fragile Seas (8007045) 10.00 Kalonari (8000132) 11.00 South Georgia (5251652) 12.00 Ice Tombs of Siberia (4497508) 12.30am Herculancum TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm Geng Places 1,00 Deminikas

5.30 Whittle Ouiz (T) (4045132) 6.00 100 Per Cent (4042045)

(5321010)



# Kathleen Turner and Nicolas Cage star in this comedy drama about a forty-

comedy (1956229) 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2635126) 12.40am Live and Dangerous US college football and basketball (46885053)

> Pranet 1.30 Beyond Borders 2.00 Snow Satan 2.30 No Trucken' Holiday 3.00 Reel World 3.30 Oceanis 4.00 Australian Gourmet 4.30 Roeal to the Islands 5.00 Regie Riders 5.30 Realway Advertures 6.00 Stepping the World 6.30 On Tour 7.00 Splendours of the World 6.30 North of Naples South of Rome 8.30 Portrait of Incland 9.00 Holiday international 10.00 No Trucken' Holiday 10.30 A Fork in the Roed 11.00 Cries of the World 11.30 Reel World THE HISTORY CHANNEL 4.00pm Virny, Birth of a Nation (4579890) 5.00 Losi Civilisations, Greece (2261942)

> 5.00 Losi Chritisanons, Greece (2261942). 6.00 Ancient Mysterics (7753519 7.00 Biography Marilyn Montoe — an Internale Portrail (2743107) 8.00 Close **CARLTON FOOD (cable)** 12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30 The Restaurant Show 1.00 Food for Thought Resident Show 130 Christmas 2.00 Hoss's Foreign Assignment 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Alive and Cooking 3.30 Graham Kerr's Kachen 4.00 Aldo's Job 4.30 Chef for a Day 5,00 Close

LIVING 8.00am Tiny Lwng 9.00 Why Me? 9.30 The Gordon Ellion Show 10.10 Jerry Springer 11.00 The Young and the Resides 11.85 Brookstote 12.25pm Jammy's 12.95 Cheep Chic 1.25 Ready, Steedy, Cook 2.05 Hart to Harl 3.00 Live at Three 4.05 Jerry Springer 5.00 Rolonde 5.50 Cheep Chic 6.20 Ready, Steedy, Cook 7.00 Rescue 911 7.30 Manual Cheep and Microsoft 9.00 Market Mysteries, Magic and Miraclet, 8.00 Ad ain Jurides 9.00 FILM: Gentlemen Pr as 11.00 Sex Life Down Linder

6.30mm Nager Pane Roop Nager 7,00 Jaa-gran 7,30 Ghoomra Asna 8,00 Business 8,30 Roshat 9,00 Manao 9,30 Out and About 10,00 Tara 11,00 Low Cal 11,30 Hum Asp Ne Hain Woh 12.00 Danes 12.30 Reanel 1.00 FILM 4.00 Public Demand 5.00 Assa Bhi Hol a Hai 5.30 Teen Do Peanch 6.00 Hum Peanch 8.30 Hais 7.00 Liberty 7.30 Banegi April Beat 8.00 News 8.30 Dasteen 9.00 Pal Do Pal 10.00 Film Beatein 18.30 Top 10 11.00 Punush Kahatra

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ACROSS: 3 Touching 7 Rapine 8 Tracer 9 Smoker 10 Cocoon 11 Free 13 Crecy 15 Nero 17 Tedder 18 Chance 19 Ravine 20 Second 21 Steerage DOWN: I Hammer 2 Sickle 3 Terrier 4 Cursory 5 Inchoate 6 Geronimo 11 Features 12 Eau de vie

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10 1997

Oxford suffer familiar case of the blues with another defeat at Twickenham

# Cambridge enjoy experience Feel-good factor continues with

THREE days after the departure from Twickenham of the ultimate professionals, New Zealand, the ultimate amateurs from Oxford and Cambridge universities pulled 70,000 to the same venue yesterday to witness Cambridge sustain their stranglehold on the Bowring Bowl. The pleasure of victory in the ll6th game in the series, moreover, was embellished by their ability to beat Oxford in the area where they were

strongest — the pack. The first Cambridge try and their last - came through the mauling power of their forwards and sent a message to the Dark Blues that was quite intentional. "We have only had this pack out once before, against Australian Capital Territory, but we knew we could do it that way." Tony Rodgers, the coach, said. "So this was the best win of the last four, because of the way

The last Cambridge defeat was in 1993, a run that threatens the record of five successive wins achieved by their predecessors of 1972-76 and 1980-84. It was sufficient for Steve Hill, the Oxford director of rugby, to suggest that his organisation needs to look far more closely at recruitment so that it can introduce the level of sustained experience from which Cambridge have benefited — in no one more than Richard Bramley, the lock, who was making his fifth appearance in



new FA Cup league

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Indeed, Bramley scored the first try of the match, when his colleagues joined forces to wedge him over from a lineout, but Cambridge's ability to vary the play made them deserving victors in a game that won high marks for intent, if not for execution. For that reason, Brian Campsall, the referee, might have exercised a lighter touch than he did, doling out nearly 40 penalty awards in aggregate and cutting short the rucks when he might have played

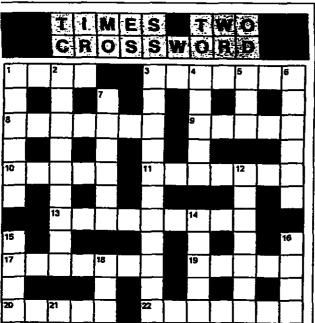
advantage a little longe On the other hand, Oxford might have thought that they were deserving of a penalty try during a spell of pressure on the Cambridge line midway through the second half. Three times in succession, the Light Blues offended within ten metres, Oxford's reward finally arriving through Spicer, who dived from a wheeling scrum and reduced the Cambridge advantage to 19-10. Yet at no time did Oxford threaten a revival of All Black propor-

### **DETAILS FROM TWICKENHAM**

first): 0-7, 0-14, 3-14 (half-time), 3-19, 10-19, 10-26, 17-26, 17-29. 10-19, 10-26, 17-25, 17-29.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: R Maher (St ignatus, Sydney and University, captain); N Booth (Lytham St Anne's 15 and Worcester), N Lansen (Hitch Cot), Duben and Lincoln), B Rudge (St Edward's, Liverpool and Keble), R Poliock (Diocesan Col), Cape Town and Keble; Replock (Diocesan Col), Cape Town and Keble; Rep. G Lewis, Cheedle Hutne and St Anne's, 32mn); T Jensen (St Edmund's, Carberra and St Arse's), N Hogan (Tererure Col), Dublin and Metron); R Lehner (Lesuit HS, Secramento and St Anne's), Partametta and St Anne's), A Reuben (Strammat Hall, 79), M Colland (King's, Partametta and St Anne's), A Reuben

and Homerton), J Cocks (N Sydney and St Edmund's).



No 1273

Complete: with no room (4) Altar hanging (7)

8 Scandal (7) 9 Diamond weight measure 10 Heathen (5)

11 Hairy (7) 13 Unqualified, utter (3-3-3) 17 Interrupt. annoy (7) 19 (Fencing) thrust forward (5)

20 V-shaped nick (5) 2 22 Multi-volume book: a PSV (7)

23 Multiplied by self; bribed

1 Limp: sort of diskette (6) 2 Fond of suing (9) 3 Family (5,3.5)

4 An Academy Award (5) Rocky hill (3) 6 Portable bed; rubbish (6) 7 Attractive horseshoe (6) 12 Impossible to defend (9) 14 Rectangular (6)

15 Handsome youth (Gk. myth) (6) 16 One-room flat (6) 18 To escort; his house fell

(Poe) (5) 21 Sort of cross; may sound

Defence became the keynote

them an ideal platform.

tions, even though their domi-

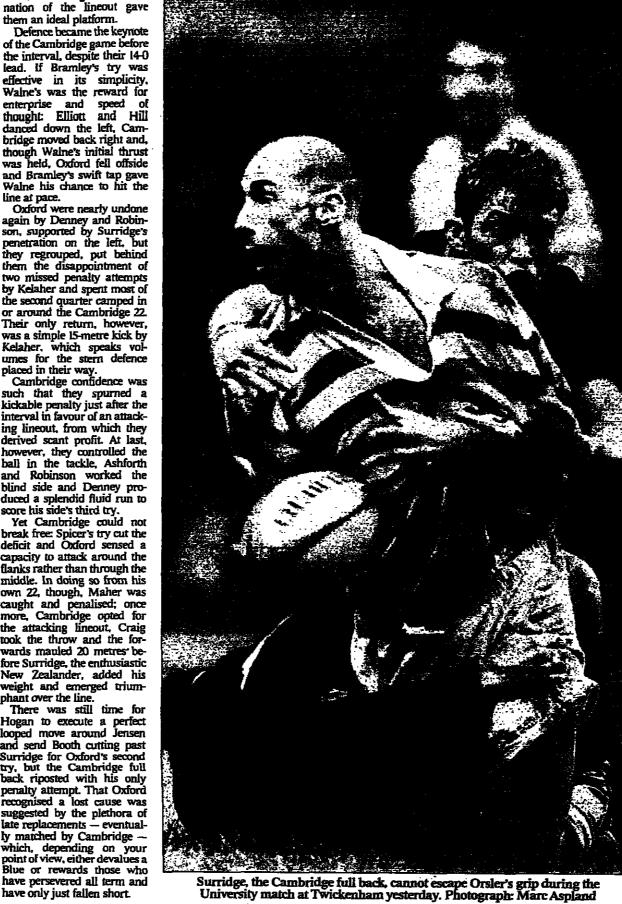
of the Cambridge game before the interval, despite their 14-0 lead. If Bramley's try was effective in its simplicity, Waine's was the reward for enterprise and speed of thought: Elliott and Hill danced down the left. Cambridge moved back right and, though Walne's initial thrust was held, Oxford fell offside and Bramley's swift tap gave Walne his chance to hit the

line at pace.
Oxford were nearly undone again by Denney and Robin-son, supported by Surridge's penetration on the left, but they regrouped, put behind them the disappointment of two missed penalty attempts by Kelaher and spent most of the second quarter camped in or around the Cambridge 22. Their only return, however, was a simple 15-metre kick by Kelaher, which speaks volumes for the stern defence

placed in their way. Cambridge confidence was such that they spurned a kickable penalty just after the interval in favour of an attacking lineout, from which they derived scant profit. At last, however, they controlled the ball in the tackle, Ashforth Robinson worked the blind side and Denney produced a splendid fluid run to score his side's third try.

Yet Cambridge could not break free: Spicer's try cut the deficit and Oxford sensed a capacity to attack around the flanks rather than through the middle. In doing so from his own 22, though, Maher was caught and penalised; once more, Cambridge opted for the attacking lineout, Craig took the throw and the forwards mauled 20 metres before Surridge, the enthusiastic New Zealander, added his weight and emerged triumphant over the line.

There was still time for Hogan to execute a perfect looped move around Jensen and send Booth cutting past Surridge for Oxford's second try, but the Cambridge full back riposted with his only penalty attempt. That Oxford recognised a lost cause was suggested by the plethora of late replacements - eventually matched by Cambridge which, depending on your point of view, either devalues a Blue or rewards those who have persevered all term and have only just fallen short.



# gripping show

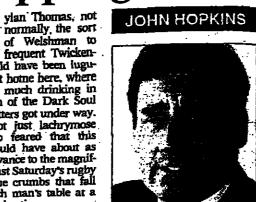
frequent Twickenarn, would have been lugubriously at home here, where there was much drinking in the Saloon of the Dark Soul before matters got under way. It was not just lachrymose Celts who feared that this match would have about as much relevance to the magnificence of last Saturday's rugby feast as the crumbs that fall from a rich man's table at a time of celebration.

Wherever one looked at Twickenham in the noonday hour, England's thrilling draw with New Zealand and its after-effects seemed unavoidable. It was a surprise then - and a welcome one to discover a snap and crackle about this match as it fizzed from end to end in a style that owed its heritage to the New Zealanders and the handling game of the southern hemisphere.

Unusual angles of running were attempted. Players remained on their feet at all costs. Almost always the ball was kept in the hand and passed quickly, first this way and then that as the carrier probed and darted. It was helter-skelter, committed and played at pace, even if the skill levels and the overall speed were to England and New Zealand as Martin Johnson is

At odd moments it was even Saturday all over again. When Cambridge dropped a pass early on and Oxford pounced on it, there was Dallaglio. alias Hogan, hoofing it through again. And when a thick-necked front-row forward picked up the ball and ran, the fact that it was Gavin Reynolds did not matter.

There was even a momentary demonstration of backs playing as forwards. Paul Surridge burrowed into a maul on Oxford's line, found the ball and touched it down. Dirtying one's hands in such grubby places is not often where full backs are to be found. Was this the ultimate example of what John Hart, the All Blacks coach, has preached for years — backs and forwards combining, the job being done by whichever is



At Twickenham

maintain that England's loss to West Germany in the World Cup cost Labour the 1970 general election. Saturday's performance by England cre ated a feel-good factor that

shows no sign of dying out yet.
"It was not difficult to play
this game after what happened last Saturday." Richie Maher, the Oxford captain, said. "I was here. It was fantastic to be here. It inspired us. From my point of view, It. was great to see England play an expansive game. At last they played rugby as it should be played, using the width of the field, moving the ball, running with it."

One of the odd statistics of this old and distinguished British sporting ritual was that both captains were Australian and Tom Murphy, euphoric after Cambridge's victory, said much the same thing as his countryman. "I took a lot of heart from England's performance last Saturday," Murphy said. "It fact that we won it."

shafts of brilliance that it - and another match at Twickenham to be graced by the presence of a streaker who was roundly applauded - was not half as bad in actuality as it had seemed in prospect.

Harold Wilson used to

was rewarding to see England do it so well. They were magnificent And today I was as proud of the manner in which we won the game as the No one is suggesting that this match contained so many should have been filmed and used for ever more as a coaching tool. But the first-Varsity match to be played with referees as touch judges

# Maktoums threaten British exodus

THE MAKTOUM brothers, the most powerful racing fam-ily in the world, signalled their intention last night to pull out of British racing, unless there is a dramatic change in the sport's finances. If the Maktoums carry out their threat, the withdrawal would have far-reaching consequences for British racing and

the bloodstock industry. Racing leaders heard the warning during a speech written by Sheikh Mohammed, the driving force behind the Dubai-based family's racing interests, and delivered to the Gimerack dinner in York. In the 20 years since Sheikh Mohammed enjoyed his first

tee meets at Lord's and may take the first giant

step for cricketing woman-kind by agreeing a new policy

on an issue that has caused

decades of angst — namely

the question of women being

allowed to apply for member-ship of Marylebone Cricket

When I played cricket I was

impatient and impetuous as

England's No 3 bat, but as far

as the MCC v Women Mem-

bers campaign is concerned, I

have been very patient. It was

seven years ago that I first wrote under plain cover (sign-

ing my letter R Flint) for an

application form for MCC

The then president of MCC, Lord Griffiths, was shocked to

receive an application from a

woman — the first in the MCC's 204-year history. To

his credit, he said that the club

would have to address the

matter, and a formal resolu-

tion at the May 1991 annual

membership.

By Richard Evans, racing correspondent

Rachael Heyhoe Flint marches into bat

against MCC men behaving badly

ed, although only 7,000 of the 17,500 members voted. as it wishes — but I was not going to give up.

going to give up.

I have been supporting this campaign not for my own personal sake but for the

thousands of women who love

and support cricket who

would like to be members of

the greatest cricket club in the

world; women who would like

We don't want any favours

— we will apply and then wait

the 18 or 20 years for our

membership to come forth. I

might not live to see that day,

but at least I will have bowled the opening googly.

Women spectators have been allowed into the pavilion

for three England women's

matches in the past four years

and they have certainly been

better behaved than the Four

XXXX brigade in the Tavern

No woman would go to the

to be part of its success.

winner he and his brothers — Maktoum al-Maktoum, Hamdan al-Maktoum and Ahmed al-Maktoum - have invested hundreds of millions of pounds in horses, studs and a substantial workforce.

In his speech, Sheikh Mo-hammed said that he would be failing in his duty as a racing man if he failed to point out that the Government exacts more money from racing than is justifiable or sustainable in the long term. "In crude terms, from the 9p deduction on bets in this country, the Government takes six times the amount that is returned to

Since that "underwhelm-

ing" verdict, I have been

incredibly patient, because I

knew that a private club (albeit with a public function)

is perfectly entitled to operate

Granding\_your

ncc application been

You remember

racing. They have 6.75 pence, the levy receives 1.2 pence and the rest disappears in the general direction of the bookmakers' ever-open pockets."

He also highlighted statistics giving the percentage of keep and training fees recoverable through prize-money in 40 countries worldwide. "Britain ranks 35th . . . a desperate plight for a nation with the finest racing in the world.

"For ten years, I have kept my own counsel and withstood all temptations to enter the debate surrounding racing's financial plight but the time for silence has passed.

We cannot justify continuing at current levels of investment for much longer and are actively studying whether other parts of the world might not provide better opportunities.

"All I ask is that the astounding gulf between outlayand return is narrowed ... not for my benefit but for everybody's benefit in all corners of the industry. I am not holding a gun to anyone's head, but nor am I making an empty threat. Please be in no doubt that, if we see no light at the end of the tunnel, we will be left with little choice but to make an exit."

Sheikh's warning, page 43

# Time for cricket to club together trouble or expense of seeking to become a member of MCC

unless she genuinely wanted Women in cricket are now recognised and appreciated throughout the world. The other MCC (Melbourne) now allows women members in the pavilion at the MCG, and the England Women's Cricket Association are shortly to be merged with the England and Wales Cricket Board at Lord's. The England men's team sponsor, Vodafone, has also become the main sponsor

of the women's team. This is MCC's great chance. Its lottery bid for £4.5 million was turned down by the Sports Council because the club did not have women members - but I don't want that to be a reason for change. We campaigners want it for genuine heartfelt reasons that the time has come to modernise, and by doing so I'm sure MCC will gain enormous praise from the

world in general.

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